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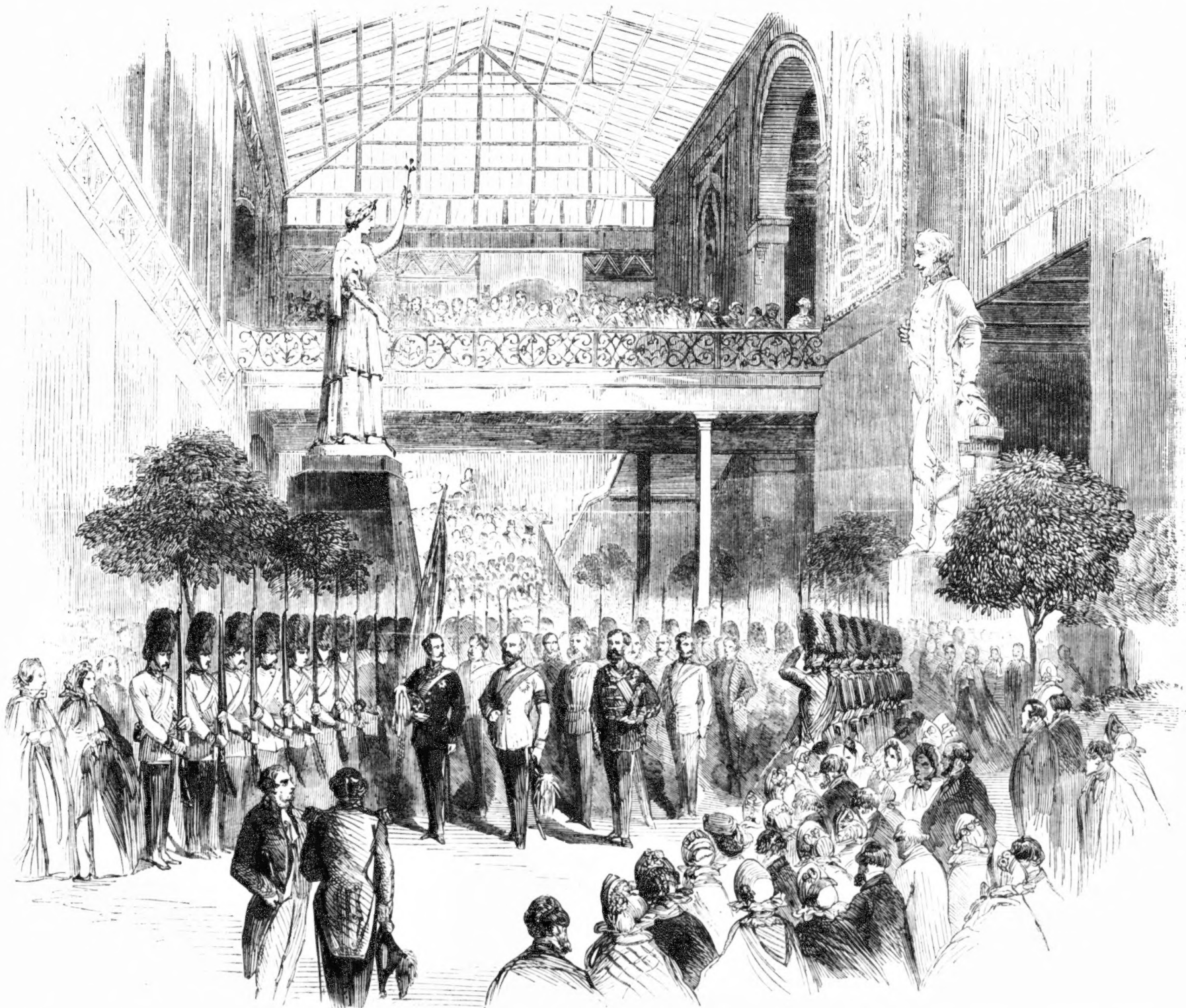
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS.

It would be interesting to know to what extent the Great Exhibition of 1851 may be regarded as answerable for the Crimean War. It was not, of course, the fault of the Great Exhibition that the Emperor Nicholas broke his word, and that the British Government declined to accept the *parole de gentilhomme* of a sovereign who, in failing to keep promises on other subjects, had only imitated the conduct of the majority of his predecessors. But the Crystal Palace of 1851 was born in an atmosphere of peace, all its surroundings were peaceful, and all the reflections inspired by it were not only anti-warlike but absolutely opposed even to the possibility of war. The current of public opinion was so dead against fighting that it was rashly concluded that England did not mean under any circumstances to fight. At that time it was considered almost idiotic to belong to the Army, and the general notion of an officer seemed to be that he

was some one who, for no real purpose, wore a uniform, and who, as a matter of course, could not spell. The weekly and monthly magazines, and even some of the newspapers, used to publish so-called "progress poems," in which it was explained that only men of a past, and therefore of a foolish and corrupt, generation thought of war, and that henceforward all the world was to be at peace. The world was declared in a somewhat slangy style to be "on the move;" and the great progress poet who (affected, perhaps, by his own reputation) mistook the strictly temporary for the eternal, declared, in a poem imitated very imperfectly and without any sort of acknowledgment from Béranger, that there was "a good time coming," and, indeed, that it had already arrived, or, at the very least, was in sight and within hail. Foreigners opened their ears and eyes, stared, wondered, and at last came to the conclusion that, not so much from benevolence and millennial tendencies generally as from an addiction to commerce at all price, we had finally determined

to lie down with the lamb, in order that we might fleece it at leisure for the benefit of our woollen manufacturers. The Emperor Nicholas expressed a decided opinion that we had become *une nation bourgeoise* (which was very like what Napoleon I., who ought to have known better, had said of us many years before), and, consequently, that to avoid the immediate expense and commercial inconvenience of war we should be prepared to put up with a considerable amount of provocation without drawing the sword.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 threw the country into a sort of peaceful dream, for which it had already been well disposed. When all the nations of the earth had come to visit us, it seemed outrageous to suppose that any of them could pick a quarrel with us or give us cause for offence, on no matter what subject. Independently of the effect which this state of feeling in England had upon the Power which was then regarded as the one ambitious Power in Europe, it had an



RECEPTION OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, CHIEF ROYAL COMMISSIONER, AT THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE, ON MAY 1.

injurious influence on our military system at home; so that when, contrary to all expectation, the war *did* begin, we found ourselves as unprepared for it, in a material point of view, as we had been for some time in a moral sense.

Of course no one will be hasty enough to conclude from the above that we regard International Exhibitions of industry as tending to promote war; but we think that too much stress was laid eleven years ago on the peaceful aspect of such a wonderful phenomenon as an International Exhibition was then considered, and, in fact, was. We are not likely now to exaggerate its importance in a peace point of view; and if we made a slight mistake in 1851, we may at least console ourselves with the reflection that we erred on the right side in one respect. It was not creditable, perhaps, to our reason, but it was certainly not discreditable to our feeling, that we were willing to regard the meeting of all nations in London in the year 1851 as a promise of lasting peace if not as an evident forerunner of the formation of the "United States of Europe," that ideal federation, invented by Victor Hugo, which was so much in fashion with the Peace Party everywhere at a time when the "United States of America" passed for being the most solid and durable political organisation on the face of the globe.

Since 1851 the world has seen two Great International Exhibitions—one in Paris, in the year 1855; the other at South Kensington, and which was opened only the other day; the International Exhibition at New York is scarcely worth counting. In 1855—four years after the beginning of the Hyde Park millennium—England, France, and Sardinia were at war with Russia about, and in defence of, Turkey; while Austria, armed to the teeth, was only hesitating as to which side she could take with the greatest advantage to herself, and Prussia, for maintaining an absolute neutrality, was exposing herself to the reproaches both of Russia and of the Allies. Two years ago, when our second International Exhibition was about to fall due, it was postponed until 1862 on account of the wars, or at least rumours of wars, with which Europe—not yet recovered from Napoleon III.'s Italian campaign—was everywhere disturbed. Now that the "World's Fair" is once more being held in London, the nation which has hitherto been accounted the most peaceful and progress-loving of all (at least by the Peace Society) is fighting within itself. Since 1851 we have gone from a state of peace, which we were assured would be eternal, to a war on the part of the two great European Powers against Russia. This Eastern struggle is followed by another in the heart of Europe between France and Italy on the one hand and Austria on the other; and the thoroughly European conflict is succeeded by a civil war of the most deadly kind in the United States. Where the next great International Exhibition, in the year 1865, will find the European nations it is impossible to say; but apparently not slumbering in the bed of peace; or, if so, at least with drawn swords at their pillows. Since the introduction of International Exhibitions there has been more talk about the blessings of peace (a point about which every one was agreed long ago) than ever; but it is a significant fact that at the same time the standing armies of Europe have been alarmingly increased. Indeed, in the middle of the peace-loving nineteenth century, we are taxed far more heavily for the expenses of war than we ever were in the seventeenth and eighteenth, when fighting was looked upon as the natural occupation of all armies, and when young men "went to the wars" as they now go to Vichy, the Pyrenées, or to German baths and gambling-houses.

The great mistake which was made in the manner of looking at the Great Exhibition of 1851 seems to have arisen from the belief that it was perfectly new of its kind. So it was in its beauty and its admirable organisation, and also in the artistic character which it possessed, but not in its immensity or in the fact that it brought together many thousands of persons of all nations. The old Eastern fairs, the Russian fair of Nijni-Novgorod, the French fair of Beaucaire, all attract purchasers and sightseers from scores of different nations. But war between the nations to which these purchasers and sightseers belong takes place all the same if their respective Governments find it to the interest of their subjects, or only of themselves, to quarrel and fight. Nevertheless, in a highly-civilised country like England we might and ought to turn our International Exhibition to some good moral account. This we may do by showing kindness to our visitors, and enabling them to profit as much as possible by the number of new things they will see in England; while at the same time not forgetting that we shall have much to learn from them when it becomes their turn to invite the nations of the earth to some similar artistic and commercial festival.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN BRAZIL.—Mr. Baillie, Secretary to the British Legation at Rio de Janeiro, in a recent report to the Foreign Office on the commerce and agriculture of Brazil, says there is no doubt that excellent cotton may be produced, so far as the soil and climate are concerned, throughout the whole of the Empire. The small quantity now produced in Rio Grande do Sul is said to be of the best quality. The climate is temperate, and suited to European labour; foreign immigration, which has generally failed in Brazil, has succeeded in that province better than in any other. Mr. Baillie says there is a considerable opening for the better class of European colonists; and that, with the cordial and energetic aid of the Government, there appears no reason why the cultivation of cotton in that province should not be greatly developed. In addition to that province, which is at present the principal cotton-growing district of the empire, the province of Para is said to contain immense tracts of land admirably adapted to the cultivation of cotton; but the productive use of the country is at present extremely limited by the scarcity of capital and labour, and the hope of an increase of the latter is the better success of foreign immigration, which the resolution passed last Session by the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, for the purpose of preventing emigration to Brazil, has caused to wear an unfavorable aspect. The whole subject has since been discussed in the Brazilian Chambers, and been considered by the Imperial Government, who are fully alive to the necessity of remedying the evils complained of and putting the system of emigration to Brazil on a better and more durable footing.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

AFTER the very full account of the ceremonial at the inauguration of the Great International Exhibition which we gave in our last week's Number, it will not be necessary to enter at any length into a description of that event now, and we shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a few particulars illustrative of the two Engravings which we publish of interesting points of the day's proceedings. And first, then, of

THE RECEPTION OF THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AND THE ROYAL REPRESENTATIVES.

The entrance in Cromwell-road had been reserved specially for the Royal commissioners, for members of the British Royal family, and for other illustrious personages. In addition to the parties of cavalry which elsewhere gave a military fringe to the line of carriages, the ground at this point was kept by a guard of honour of the Grenadier Guards. A troop of the Horse Guards was drawn up on either flank of the line of Guardsmen, and beyond them again the requisite space was preserved by a strong force of constabulary. The Royal commissioners, especially his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Palmerston, were cheered on approaching the building. The suite of his Royal Highness comprised Colonel the Hon. James Macdonald, Colonel Tyrwhitt, Colonel Clifton, and the Hon. Hussy Fane Keane (Royal Engineers.) Immediately following the Royal commissioners was a cortege, the mournful aspect of which impressed the spectators more deeply by its contrast with all that had gone before. It was merely a file of carriages, driving at the same pace as all the rest; but the deep black liveries of the servants, and still more the associations connected with the event that was being celebrated, struck the minds of those who looked upon them as forcibly as ever did the slave's warning in the classic triumphs, or the *memento mori* of later times. In the Royal carriages were the Crown Prince of Prussia and Prince Oscar of Sweden, with their respective suites. The Crown Prince, who was very warmly cheered, wore the uniform of a Prussian General, the epaulettes covered with erape. His Royal Highness wore the ribbon and jewel, and also the star, of the order of the Garter.

The Duke of Cambridge as he passed along was loudly cheered, and the great political leaders, Lord Palmerston and Lord Derby, who on this occasion appeared in close conjunction, were also warmly received. Lord Palmerston looked well and as vigorous as ever, but it had evidently cost Lord Derby a great effort to be present. He was still suffering severely from the effects of his recent illness, and walked lame, with the assistance of a stick. The Lord Chancellor and the Speaker were attended by their Sergeants-at-Arms, carrying their maces.

THE PROCESSION ALONG THE NAVE.

Our account last week would convey to our readers a sufficiently vivid idea of the procession as it made its way to the eastern dome, and which is represented in the large Engraving on pages 31 and 32 of our present sheet. While Lord Granville was delivering the short speech in which he presented the address of the commissioners of the exhibition to the representatives of her Majesty, a slight contretemps occurred. Possibly there might have been a difficulty in telegraphing to Mr. Costa what was going on so far away from him; but, whatever was the cause, just as Lord Granville commenced his short address, the orchestra at the other end began to sing "God Save the Queen," and his Lordship finished his address to the commissioners with that accompaniment in the distance. The Duke of Cambridge, however, waited patiently until the music had ceased, and when the last note died away read the following reply in a loud and clear voice, which was distinctly audible at a considerable distance:—

We cannot perform the duty which the Queen has done us the honour to commit to us as her Majesty's representatives on this occasion, without expressing our heartfelt regret that this inaugural ceremony is deprived of her Majesty's presence by the sad bereavement which has overwhelmed the nation with universal sorrow. We share most sincerely your feelings of deep sympathy with her Majesty in the grievous affliction with which the Almighty has seen fit to visit her Majesty and the whole people of this realm. It is impossible to contemplate the spectacle this day presented to our view without being painfully reminded how great a loss we have all sustained in the illustrious Prince with whose name the first Great International Exhibition was so intimately connected, and whose enlarged views and enlightened judgment were conspicuous in his appreciation of the benefits which such undertakings are calculated to confer upon the country. We are commanded by the Queen to assure you of the warm interest which her Majesty cannot fail to take in this exhibition, and of her Majesty's earnest wishes that its success may amply fulfil the intentions and expectations with which it was projected, and may richly reward the zeal and energy, aided by the cordial co-operation of distinguished men of various countries, by which it has been carried into execution. We heartily join in the prayer that the International Exhibition of 1862, beyond largely conducing to present enjoyment and instruction, will be hereafter recorded as an important link in the chain of International Exhibitions, by which the nations of the world may be drawn together in the noblest rivalry, and from which they may mutually derive the greatest advantages.

This concluded the portion of the ceremony which was appointed to take place under the eastern dome, and the procession slowly unwound itself, and proceeded in the same order as before down the nave. The brilliant column, as it moved along with the sunlight upon it, but its gaudy lines toned down and relieved by the cooler tints of the dresses of the ladies who lined the passage on each side, was a magnificent sight from the galleries; but the vista, looking westward, down the nave from the platform, and terminating in the gaily-decked parterre of the orchestra, was still finer.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON THE OPENING, AND ON THE BUILDING.

THE Paris journals contain accounts of the opening of the exhibition from the pens of their "own" correspondents. In the *Debat* the description is written by M. J. Lemoine. The singular uniforms which were worn by different members of the procession seem to have much amused him; it is even irreverently hinted that the high authorities looked very much as though they had "left the collection at the Tower of London." M. Lemoine strongly condemns the exterior of the building, and compares the domes to wine-gauze dish-covers. "Happily," he says, "the warbling is better than the plumage," and as an Industrial Exhibition this one is far superior to that of 1851. "As to the English," he adds, "any one who had not seen them since the first exhibition would scarcely know them again; one would think they had been changed at nurse—they all have beards and moustaches! Where are the old caricatures in which the traditional Frenchman of Leicester-square used to figure with his uncutivated whiskers. Now it is the English who have the aspect of gorillas. The Englishwomen alone have not changed. There they were, with flaming toilets at noon, always dazzling in freshness, and extravagant in colours—dressed in lilies and roses at the *Belle Jardinière*." The correspondent of the *Presse* characterises the building as heavy, massive, and without grace. "Ladies," he says, "were present in great numbers and beauty. Imagine two or three thousand Englishwomen in summer dresses, and a similar number of Englishmen, who are the best combed people in creation, and you will have an idea of the spectacle. For the rest, a half-silence, very different from that confused buzz which is heard in all public assemblies at Paris; few words, few gestures, a grave demeanour, but without stiffness or awkwardness. Really I have never seen anything more beautiful." The same correspondent is fully persuaded that the French industry will take the first rank, although the American war and the treaty of commerce have prevented French manufacturers from devoting much time to the undertaking. The latter class, moreover, dislike a visit to London. "It is very costly and still more unenjoyable." This, he thinks, is the last International Exhibition which will be held in London. "At heart the exhibitors of all nations, the English excepted, prefer Paris. They are better treated there; they are not overcharged; great pains are taken to attract them. At London this is all reversed. The English nation has great qualities; it is intelligent, brave, persevering, intrepid, but it is not hospitable." The *Siecle* is more liberal in its praise and admiration than any of its contemporaries. The writer, however, has slightly misunderstood a portion of the ceremony. He says, "After Meyerbeer's Overture, specially composed for the occasion; after the grand march of Anber, which was hailed with frantic applause; after a cantata, which was equally well received; after a sort of *alléluia* intoned by the Bishop of London—the Duke of Cambridge," &c. The performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus," and the reading of the prayer by the Bishop, appear to have mystified our friend of the *Siecle*. The *Temps* devotes nearly a page to a description of the scene. The unfurnished state of the different departments is a prominent theme of the writer, and some rumours are given of internal dissensions, of which we have heard nothing. The most imposing part of the ceremony was, it is stated, the music. The correspondent, however, notices an omission. "What has been done with the diplomatic corps? If I am well informed, the Ambassadors are not very satisfied with the neglect, which, to say the least, is very extraordinary in an international assembly."

Theophile Gautier, one of the foremost literary men of France, is in London, "doing" the Exhibition for the *Moniteur*. In his description of the opening day he refers to one of the inscriptions or mottoes on one of the friezes, which he calls "a pious legend inscribed in English." And he offers to his readers the following amusing sentence as a copy of the pious English inscription:—"Power and might and ine thine hand it to make great a Lord both rich and honor come of thee thou reignest over all and ine thine hand is." We defy Oxford and Cambridge combined to explain the meaning of this pious legend as M. Gautier has copied it. In another part of his correspondence, M. Gautier, after paying a high tribute to Tennyson, and wondering that Frenchmen in general are only beginning to know our poet, proves his own thorough acquaintance with Tennyson's works by speaking of Lady Godiva as "accomplishing her ride to ransom the life of her husband!"

THE ROYAL EXHIBITION COMMISSIONERS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN PRESS.

The *Nord* of Brussels has the following:—"We are informed that the Royal commissioners of the London exhibition have refused to grant tickets of admission to the representatives of foreign journals. We must be permitted to remark on this singular proceeding. We are aware that, notwithstanding the act of union, British hospitality is quite distinct from the disinterestedness proverbially attributed to Scotch hospitality. In London, if you wish to see the monuments, museums, churches, &c., you must pay for passing from one room to another, from one story to another. The trafficking genius of the modern Carthage is to be discovered in this extremely inconvenient union of fiscal formalities and national memories. But if there was an occasion in which these utilitarian habits should be departed from, it was this of the Universal Exhibition—this convocation of the civilised world, who were asked to bring to the capital of Great Britain the tribute of their sympathy and the treasures of their labour. If any privilege was allowable it should be in favour of those without whose publicity the grandest and most encyclopedic exhibitions would be restricted and confined. Surely the Universal Exhibition has not been designed for some hundred thousand visitors. All Europe ought to participate in the information to be derived from this encyclopedic council of temporary art and industry. And who but the press will set loose and give wings to this information? In denying to the representatives of the press of Europe facilities to which they are fairly entitled, there would be at once a shocking want of logic and a pitiful shabbiness. If the London Exhibition be only a speculation, if it be not a monument raised to intelligent and liberal England as well as to laborious Europe, we no longer recognise in this congress of manufacturers, merchants, and artists, assembled from all points of the globe, guests invited to a pacific tournament—to an international fête—but merely supernumeraries, who have come unwittingly to give a varied representation for the benefit of England."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The King of Holland arrived at Paris on Tuesday evening on a visit to the Emperor.

General Goyon has definitively been recalled from Rome, and was expected to arrive in Paris on Monday. The General's successor has not yet been publicly mentioned; but there are rumours, apparently with but slight foundation, to the effect that Marshal Niel is to be sent in a joint diplomatic and military capacity to the Eternal City. This is not probable, especially as the Marshal is at present in this country. The recall of General Goyon is generally supposed to indicate that the Emperor of the French has at last made up his mind to a decided policy as regards Rome, and the hopes of the Italians are high that the way to their national capital is at last about to be left open to them. On the other hand, the same event has caused great excitement among the adherents of his Holiness. The Pope was at Porto d'Anzio when the news of the recall of his French protector reached him, and he immediately returned to Rome, held a council, and dispatched an Envoy to Paris to demand explanations. Whether M. de Lavalette will again return to Rome does not seem to be at present known. Much speculation on the "Question Romaine" is rife in Paris.

Another topic which divides the attention of the Parisians with that of Rome is the visit of M. Mercier to Richmond. Some of the papers assert that the French Ambassador to the United States has gone to arrange the terms of an intervention in America; others that he only goes to try his own influence in bringing about an arrangement between the belligerents; others, again, that he intends to advise the Secessionists to submit and re-enter the Union; and, finally, that M. Mercier's journey has been undertaken at the earnest solicitation of Mr. Jefferson Davis, who considers the Southern cause in *extremis*, and is anxious to obtain the best terms he can for himself and his friends. Obviously, all this is mere conjecture; but it is generally believed that the French Government are engaged in negotiations to bring the conflict between the contending States to a close.

A further reduction of the French army to the extent of 10,000 men is said to be in contemplation.

BELGIUM.

The state of the King of the Belgians' health becomes more and more alarming. On Sunday the King underwent another operation for the painful disease with which he is afflicted, and he derived some momentary relief from the process; but on Monday evening he grew decidedly worse. Since the close of last week, indeed, the King has been suffering so severely that his son, the Count of Flanders, has not been allowed to see him. The King is not himself aware of the danger in which he is placed, and it is feared that if his real state were made known to him his apprehensions might only aggravate the disease and much diminish his chances of recovery. A telegram was dispatched on Tuesday to the Duke of Brabant, who is at present sojourning in Seville, to inform him of the condition of the King. It cannot be doubted that that condition is of a nature to justify the very gravest apprehensions for the life of a man so far advanced in age as the universally esteemed Sovereign of the Belgian people. Leopold of Belgium is in his seventy-second year. The latest news from Brussels announces a slight improvement in his Majesty's condition.

ITALY.

The great features in the news from Italy are the King's visit to Naples and the recall of General Goyon, both of which will be found noticed elsewhere.

The anniversary of Garibaldi's Marsala expedition was celebrated by the people of Genoa on Tuesday. The population generally, including the carabinieri and the workmen's associations, took part in the manifestation. Shouts were raised of "Rome and Venice!"

It is asserted that Menotti Garibaldi has resigned the command of the Genoese volunteers, and that the corps will be disbanded.

The subscription to the great canal irrigation scheme in Upper Italy has been two-and-a-half times covered in eight days. This has produced a very favourable effect. It is asserted that the Italian Government has granted the concession for the construction of railways in Southern Italy to a society of foreign and Italian bankers, represented by Messrs. Rothschild. The capital of the society is 300,000,000 francs.

AUSTRIA.

Count Palffy, the Governor of Hungary, has issued an imperious mandate to the Hungarian authorities of comitats and districts. The rescript begins by declaring that associations having for their object to perform acts of charity and to promote the intellectual and material progress of the people had never been opposed by the Government, but proceeds to say that several individuals having lately endeavoured to transform the meetings of those associations into political gatherings, where sentiments hostile to the Government were expressed, the Governor thought it his duty to order that for the future no assembly of the members of any association of the kind should be held unless in presence of a commissary appointed by the authorities. He also orders that such commissary shall have positive instructions to dissolve the meeting if any subject be brought under discussion connected with politics or foreign to the avowed object of the association.

At the commencement of the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on the 1st instant, M. de Schmerling read the following Imperial message:—

At the moment the Reichsrath is about to commence the constitutional discussion of the Budget of 1862 and the financial laws connected therewith, and when especially the proposals of the Government will be discussed, which have for their object to provide for the wants of the State and the settlement of financial questions, his Majesty has charged his Ministers to announce to

the two Chambers of the Reichsrath that the declaration made on July 2, 1861, to the Chamber of Deputies, that for the maintenance of the Constitution and for the exact execution of the laws the Ministers hold themselves equally responsible towards the representatives of the empire, was made by the express authority of his Majesty the Emperor; that his Majesty the Emperor has not only given his assent to the principle of Ministerial responsibility, with the restrictions fixed on July 2, 1861, but, moreover, the Emperor has wished it to be stated that, with the recognition of that principle resulting already from the publication of the Constitution, the enactment contained in the Cabinet order of Aug. 20, 1861, and according to which the Ministry is responsible only and solely to the Monarch, and that it is relieved from all responsibility towards any other political authority, ceases naturally to be in vigour, inasmuch as it is not in accordance with the above-mentioned principle of Ministerial responsibility. His Majesty has, moreover, consented that in due time the Government shall take the initiative of a project of law on the responsibility of Ministers, maintaining the principles proclaimed in the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies of July 2, 1861.

After the reading of the Imperial message, Deputy Wieser mounted the tribune and said that his Majesty, by solemnly proclaiming that the responsibility of the Ministers towards the Chambers was a necessary consequence of the Constitution, and that the enactment of Aug. 21, 1861, was not in accordance with that principle, deserved again the gratitude of the representatives of the empire; and, consequently, he proposed to the Chamber three rounds of cheers in honour of his Majesty. The Chamber at once complied, and the sitting broke up amidst prolonged cheering.

In the Lower House of the Reichsrath, on Wednesday, Count Rechberg declared that the Austrian Government must relinquish the principle of intervention in reference to foreign countries. He also said that the policy of Austria with regard to Italy was of a defensive and not of an offensive character.

PRUSSIA.

The elections for the Chamber of Deputies took place on Tuesday. All the members for Berlin in the former Chamber have been re-elected except Herr Kühne, in whose stead Herr von Henig Plonchatt, belonging to the party of progress, has been chosen. As far as can be judged from the telegrams received from the various provinces, most of the former representatives have been re-elected; among others, Dr. Waldeck, Herr von Sybel, Chamberlain von der Hagen, and Herr von Carlowitz. The Catholic party, as well as the moderate Constitutional party, under the leadership of M. Grabow, have lost several votes. The ultra-Conservative party has at least not gained any votes. M. von der Heydt, Minister of Finance, unsuccessfully contested the representation of the town of Elberfeld, his old electoral district—the two successful candidates being M. Alfred Auerswald and M. Kühne. Up to the present no change has taken place in regard to the Ministry. Count Schwerin is the only one of the former Ministry who has been re-elected. The election of Herr von Vincke, and the former Minister, Herr von Patow, is announced.

THE HERZECOVINA.

Dervish Pacha has withdrawn his encampment to Galzko. The Montenegrins and the insurgents captured on Tuesday 500 transport horses, and pillaged ninety landowners, whom they ill-treated, and sent away in a state of exhaustion. Dervish Pacha is on his way to meet them.

POLAND.

As the people were leaving the Church of the Cross after divine service on Sunday twenty-two arrests were made by the police, on account of some forbidden songs having been sung with the sacred music. Among the persons arrested were a few women. A slight conflict took place with the police. The patrols have been doubled.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

A new incident in the inextricable and interminable question between Denmark and the German Confederation has occurred, and is treated by German papers as of great importance. Any of our readers who have paid attention to the subject are aware that the Danish Envoy lately replied to the protests of Austria, Prussia, and other German Powers in reference to Schleswig by a counter protest, in which he repudiated the right of German Cabinets to meddle in any question pertaining to Schleswig. At the sitting of the Federal Diet on the 1st of May this protest of Denmark was brought before the Assembly, and it was unanimously decreed that the Diet could not take it into consideration, and that it must be treated as of no effect. Great importance is attached to this resolution, as it seems to indicate an entirely new principle of intervention with regard to Schleswig, over which the Federal Diet appear now to claim the same authority as in the case of Holstein.

GREECE.

Accounts from Greece state that considerable apprehension was felt at Athens relative to the feelings of the peasants of Attica. In the night of the 13th of April all the garrison was under arms, in consequence of a report that they were about to make an attack upon the capital. The measures of precaution which were adopted sufficed to prevent any disorder taking place. Disturbances are said to have broken out at Missolonghi on the 18th. The mail which runs from that town to Athens was stopped by brigands, and all the letters burnt. The classes at the University continue to be suspended in consequence of the spirit of opposition which prevails among the students. The insurgents of Nauplia, before leaving the town, are said to have distributed the arms and ammunition which were in the arsenal to the peasants of the Argolide and of Arcadia, who are devoted to their cause.

MEXICO.

We have intelligence from Mexico to April 6. It is stated that it had been resolved that the French expeditionary force should advance to the city of Mexico, taking on themselves the responsibility of that course. The English and Spanish forces were to be withdrawn. The reactionary party were about to commence another formal campaign against Juarez.

INDIA.

We have good news from India as to the finances of that country, and as to its tariff. A telegraphic despatch from Suez brings us information from Calcutta to the 16th of April. Mr. Laing had made his financial statement, one part of which was an anticipated surplus of £1,500,000. The import duties on piece goods are reduced to 5 per cent, and on yarn to 3½ per cent, from the 23rd of April. The same despatch brings news from China and Australia. It is, however, purely of a commercial character.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The secretary having read the minutes of the previous meetings, a reward of £15 was voted to the crew of the institution's life-boat stationed at Grange, on the back of the Isle of Wight, for rescuing, in eight trips, one hundred and thirty-four persons from the ship *Cedrine*, of Bermuda, which, during thick weather, had struck near Grange, on the 2nd ult. The Rev. J. R. Gaze and Mr. Cutajar, the officer of the coastguard, also very laudably exerted themselves on the occasion. They were both thanked by the institution for their valuable services. The cost (£283) of this life-boat was presented to the institution, about two years ago, by the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Rewards amounting to £60 5s. were also voted to the crews of several of the life-boats of the institution and shore boats for rescuing twenty-one lives from the following vessels:—Brig *Trial*, of Poole; smack *Marion Lass*, of Aberystwyth; smack *Lion*, of Cardigan; smack *John* and *James*, of Chester, and other wrecks. During the past month the institution had sent two new life-boats to Dublin Bay; one was to be stationed at Kingston and the other at Poolbeg. Another life-boat was building for Howth. A life-boat was ready to be sent to Kirkcubright, on the Scotch coast. The cost (£250) of the life-boat and her carriage had been presented to the institution by a gentleman residing on Manchester. Captain J. W. Macdonald, R.N., inspecting Commander of the Coastguard at Banff, N.B., was thanked by the society for his valuable services in assisting to establish two life-boat establishments on the north-east coast of Scotland. It was reported that a full-sized life-boat belonging to the institution was to be loaned in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society, which adjoin the International Exhibition. This boat had been refused admission into the Exhibition by the Commissioners, although their naval superintendent had requested, on the 23rd ult., the institution to send her to the building. During the past two years the life-boats of the institution had saved nearly seven hundred persons. Payments amounting to nearly £1000 having been made on various life-boat establishments, the proceedings terminated.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

THE general position of the Federal armies had only been slightly changed up to the date of the latest advices from New York. There are two points on which advances had been made. General Banks, pressing up the Shenandoah Valley, reports on the 22nd of April, from his camp at Newmarket, that his advanced posts were near Harrisonburg; and that General Jackson, the late opponent of Shields at Winchester, had crossed the Blue Ridge, and veered off towards Orange and Gordonsville. At the same time Banks had occupied Luray on his left, thus commanding the roads leading to Warrenton and Culpepper in Eastern Virginia, while at Harrisonburg his outposts stood on the road leading through Stanardsville to Gordonsville. But it should be remarked that Confederate troops were still in the Virginia Highlands across the Shenandoah on his right, and that they had stopped the advance of Fremont's Lieutenant from Monterey by crowning the Shenandoah ridge with intrenchments. These points mark the extreme ranges of the Federal advance on that side. General McDowell, after sending one division to reinforce General McClellan, had moved by his left across country upon Fredericksburg, but his leading division had failed to seize the bridges on the Rappahannock. They were, together with three steamers, burnt by the retreating Confederates. It may be said that the Federals had secured the line of the Rappahannock, for their gun-boats were moving up from the Chesapeake. There are two similar streams to cross before General McDowell can gain the head of the Yorktown peninsula. At the foot of that peninsula McClellan was still in his old positions, unable to move in any direction except to the rear. It seems probable that the troops of both parties are drawing towards the country between Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Fort Monroe. Fever of a very malignant type is said to have broken out in General McClellan's army before Yorktown. Baltimore advices of April 19 describe it as resembling yellow fever. Now that the communication between Richmond and Corinth is effectually cut by the surprise of Huntsville, a neat exploit of the astronomer General Mitchell, the occupation of the intermediate points in any force becomes of less importance.

So long as General Mitchell can maintain possession of the Huntsville and the section of the Memphis and Charleston Railway on the right bank of the Tennessee, the two main Confederate armies must operate independently, each relying on its own strength and resources. The Confederate troops in the valley of the Mississippi still hold the long line from Decatur to Memphis. Here they have railways on both the flanks of Corinth, and two main lines, those running to Mobile and New Orleans, in their rear. According to the latest accounts they had pushed their outposts in front of Corinth as far as Lick Creek, a stream on the southern verge of the battlefield so bravely contested on the 6th and 7th. We hear nothing of the Federals. After repulsing their foes on the 7th they were unable to pursue, and it may be inferred that they had taken up a position somewhere near Pittsburg Landing. The Federal Generals have waited, probably, before recommencing operations, for the further movements of Mitchell and the capture of Memphis. Commodore Foote and General Pope were still before Port Pillow. The Confederates, in order to impede the progress of the land army, had taken the extreme measure of cutting the embankments of the Mississippi on the Arkansas shore, whereby the depth of the main channel was decreased, and the country flooded about Pope's encampment.

The operations on the coast had not made progress since the fall of Pulaski, but it seemed to be regarded as certain that Fort Macon would not be able to resist the Federal artillery, and that it would soon fall. Next we are to hear of the capture of Savannah, but that is not accomplished yet.

The bombardment of Fort Jackson, below New Orleans, had been commenced by the Federals, but the Confederates assert their ability to hold the place.

The Senate had ratified the treaty with England for the suppression of the slave trade. Its main point is said to be that it gives mutual right of search. The Senate had also passed a bill recognising and establishing diplomatic intercourse with Hayti and Liberia.

Mr. Mercier has returned to New York from Richmond. The journals contend that his mission had no political significance; but, from inquiries made in Congress and other signs of anxiety, it is evident that an impression prevails that negotiations are on foot between the Confederates and France. It is stated that an agent of the British Government had left for Richmond; and it is also reported that the Danish and Swedish Ministers had also gone to the Confederate capital.

IRELAND.

THE YELVERTON CASE.—The celebrated Yelverton case, with all its exciting episodes and extraordinary incidents, so illustrative of the old adage that "truth is stranger than fiction," is once more before the Court of Common Pleas, Dublin, and seems likely to furnish food for argument during a considerable portion of the present term. The counsel on behalf of Major Yelverton have filed a bill of exceptions, five in number, to the charge which Chief Justice Monahan delivered to the jury who tried the case. Two of these exceptions relate to the Scotch and the remaining three to the Irish marriage. With respect to the former, the defendant relies on the absence of any witness on the occasion of the "ceremony," if such it can be called, which was alleged to have taken place in Edinburgh; also on the absence of any written document in proof of such ceremony; and he contends that the Judge should have directed a verdict for him upon the question of the validity of the marriage. With regard to the Irish marriage, the main point relied upon by defendant is the absence of any evidence to show that he had been a professing Roman Catholic for twelve months previous to the ceremony.

A CASE OF IRISH DISTRESS.—At a meeting of the board of guardians of the Cork Union last week Mr. O'Callaghan, relieving-officer of the Blarney district, begged permission, as the board were considering cases of "distress," to draw the chairman's attention to one. He said:—"Some days ago two policemen came to me and told me there was a woman in a dying state in Blarney, on the roadside. I went at once to the woman with the policemen, and she was before me at the station, lying opposite the fire, apparently in a dying state, with Dr. Lee attending her. He told me that if I removed her she would die, as she was in such a bad state. I searched to give lodgings for her to give her out-door relief, but did not succeed, and I had to send her to the workhouse; and, though we had to put her into the butt with the greatest care, and to get any to lay her on, when she came in here she jumped out of the butt as nimbly as a greyhound and walked into the lock-up ward, so that she imposed on the constables, imposed on Dr. Lee, and imposed on myself."

THE MURDER OF M. THIEBAULT.—A coroner's inquest has been held upon the body of the above-named gentleman, who was murdered in Tipperary last week, and, after a careful investigation, the jury returned the following verdict:—"We find that the deceased, Gustave Thiebault, came by his death at Killsteena, in the county of Tipperary, on the 28th of April, 1862, from the effects of a gunshot wound; and we further find that one Thomas Halloran, late of Boytown, in the county of Tipperary, wilfully and of his malice premeditated did kill and murder the said Gustave Thiebault on the 28th of April, at Killsteena, in the county of Tipperary." Halloran had recently been evicted from the farm he held under Mr. Thiebault in consequence of nonpayment of rent. A requisition has been forwarded to Lord Lismore, the Lieutenant of the county, to convene a meeting of the magistrates at Cashel on an early day for the purpose of expressing their abhorrence of this dreadful murder, to offer their sympathy to the family, and to devise means to guard against such crimes in future.

ANOTHER ASSASSINATION.—A man named Maguire, who, a few days ago took a farm near the base of Slieveanagh, in the county of Tipperary, from which the late tenant, a man named Kennedy, had been evicted, was shot dead on Tuesday in the neighbourhood of his own farm.

SCOTLAND.

DREADFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR KILSO.—A most alarming and fatal accident took place on the Kelso branch of the North British Railway, about a quarter before six o'clock on Saturday evening last. As the 3.45 train from Edinburgh was passing eastwards from Newton (St. Boswell's) Junction to Maxton station, the carriages attached to the engine, eight in number, left the rails, and the last six, with the guard's break van, broke off from the two first, and were precipitated down an embankment of about fourteen feet in depth. The engine and tender did not leave the rails, and the first two carriages remained upon the embankment. The occurrence, which caused intense alarm, was attended with fatal and calamitous results. One passenger was killed on the spot, three were dreadfully injured, ten or twelve were very seriously hurt, and others slightly. The fallen carriages were completely shattered, particularly the first, the passengers in which suffered most. The cause of the accident will be made the subject of a strict

investigation; at present it can merely be conjectured, some attributing the calamity to a started rail, others to a defective wheel.

LET OF HIGHLAND FARMS.—Several large grazing farms in the Perthshire Highlands have been recently let at greatly increased rents to new tenants. The grazing of Auchintrae, belonging to Mr. D. R. W. Hamilton, of Lawers in Monzie parish, has been let to Messrs. Robert and James M'Diarmid at £220, being a rise of £20. Another farm of Mr. William's, Invergelvie, in Comrie parish, has also been let at £1000, the previous rent having been £725; the rise on the two farms being thus £535. These farms are among the best sheep grazings in Perthshire. The farm of Blairmore, on the estate of Lord Willoughby, also a grazing farm, has been let at a rise of 30 per cent.

THE PROVINCES.

THE MINERS.—The miners of Northumberland and Durham have resolved to petition the Legislature to take such proceedings as shall render the workers in the northern mines less liable to casualties. They ask—First, that it shall be compulsory on coalowners to sink two shafts to each mine; secondly, that the number of inspectors shall be increased; and, thirdly, that measures shall be taken to secure the better ventilation of mines. The New Hartley Mine is to be reopened. A new company will sink a fresh shaft and commence to rework the coal in the pit.

THE DISTRESS IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.—The destitution continues to increase in Blackburn and the other districts of the Blackburn union. For the week ended last Saturday there were distributed through the agency of the Public Relief Committee 4000 quarts of soup, against 8223 in the previous week; 11,359lb. of bread, against 10,751lb. in the previous week; and 10,920lb. of oatmeal, against 14,040lb., at a total cost of £180. The returns of the respective relieving officers, as presented at the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday, show that in the entire union 9557 persons had been relieved during the week, at a total cost of £523 17s. 2d., as against £9414, at a cost of £529 5s. 3d. in the previous week; or, in other words, 143 more persons were relieved last week than in the preceding one, at a cost of £5 8s. 1d. less. This shows an increase, as compared with the corresponding week of last year, in cost of £330 19s. 3d., and in recipients of 7128. Of the 9557 persons relieved, 7642 belonged to the Blackburn district, 917 to that of Oswaldtwistle, and 998 to that of Darwen. The money expended in relief in Blackburn alone amounted to £430 2s. 1d., against about £477 in the corresponding week of last year. The returns of the master of the workhouse showed an increase of 163 inmates as compared with the same week last year—the numbers being 441; corresponding week of 1861, 278. The guardians, for the better relief and general convenience of the distressed, have subdivided, temporarily, the six wards composing the Blackburn relief district into two relief districts. The poor rate for the current half year for the township of Preston will be 3s. in the pound. This is the highest rate levied in Preston since the one for the half year commencing October, 1847, when there was one of the same amount, and which was the highest that had ever, up to that date, been levied in Preston. A public meeting was held in Preston on Monday to raise subscriptions for the relief of the distressed factory operatives in that town. It was stated that of 25,000 persons usually employed in the Preston mills, 7600 were working full time; 7700 short time; and 9700 were out of work altogether. An active canvass is to be made for subscriptions.

OUTRAGE ON THE HIGHWAY.—An outrage in one of our quiet roads is reported from Bradford. A farmer and his wife, driving home in a phaeton, were fired at from behind a hedge. Fortunately the shot missed, but it appears they had a narrow escape. The intending assassin does not seem to have had any speciality in his murderous attempts, for another man walking along the same road, and much about the same hour, was also fired at. The shot took effect in his shoulder, but the wound is not considered to be dangerous. Instead of turning upon the miscreant or miscreants, he ran along the road shouting "murder!" No trace of the perpetrators of the crime has yet been obtained.

A BANQUET IN A SEWER.—On Monday afternoon, at the invitation of Mr. W. Webster, the contractor for carrying out that portion of the metropolitan main drainage from Deptford to the outfall at Erith, the members of the Greenwich District Board of Works and about 500 inhabitants of the locality proceeded to inspect the line of sewer previous to its being handed over to the Metropolitan Board. About twelve o'clock the company assembled in front of St. Alphege Church, Greenwich, the band of the volunteer rifles being in attendance; and the descent, which occupied some time, having been accomplished by means of a long ladder, a novel scene was presented. The immense archway of brickwork, the radius of which is struck from a centre of 5ft. 9in., giving 11ft. 6in. in the clear, or diameter, and of circular form, had been provided with a temporary floor for a distance of about one mile, and was lighted on both sides with lamps. The refreshment tables were abundantly supplied. The most interesting portion of the proceedings was the presentation of a testimonial from the inhabitants of Greenwich to Mr. Webster. The chair was occupied by Mr. Bristow, M.P., who presented the address to Mr. Webster, and observed that the sewer in which the large number before him were now assembled was, in his opinion, one of the greatest engineering works of modern times. A similar testimonial was presented to Mr. Jennings, agent to the contractor, who acknowledged the same in suitable terms. Several toasts were duly honoured and addresses delivered, and, after remaining under ground about two hours, the company ascended.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS.

ONE by one the restrictions by which remote nations remained separated from European influences are being removed. The means by which the various countries have been opened to enterprise may frequently have been terrible and even indefensible from a moral point of view, but the results have become apparent in our own day, and, regarded simply as results, offer real grounds for satisfaction. The great stronghold of exclusiveness has, after years of opposition, succumbed to the influence of European energy; and the Japanese, whose jealousy caused them to hold out for ages against innovation, now send Ambassadors to the great European Powers, doubtless with the intention of completing such arrangements as will secure to the traders of both France and England the protection of the native Government.

The presence of these Ambassadors at the opening of the Great Exhibition was itself a fitting inauguration of the world's show to which they came as visitors, and may be held to be significant of the universal communion which peaceful arts are calculated to establish. The sojourn of the Ambassadors in Paris has been the great event of the season; and, doubtless, during the stay of the illustrious strangers in London they will attract no little share of public attention.

It would appear that, although the four accredited functionaries from the Court of Japan are called indifferently the "Ambassadors," there are really but two Ministers, the other two being official secretaries, and one of them holding an appointment as peculiar as is the name by which he is designated. The first Ambassador, Teken-ho, Outehy-Simodzouke-no-Kami, is the Governor of one of the principal provinces of Japan; the second, Matsdeira-Yirami no-Kami, is his Deputy Governor, and both hold the rank of Princes or Damions; the third, Kiognokou-no-Kami, acts as a sort of highly-appointed Secretary to the Embassy; while the fourth, Chibata-Sadataro, is mysteriously known as "The Shadow;" and, possessing only a vague diplomatic character, is really the secret and confidential attendant of the Princes, his duty being principally confined to following the other three closely and step by step, watching and doubtless recording their speeches, and, under all circumstances, acting as a sort of private referee and amanuensis of the other three. Possibly he himself may be followed by some less official and inferior umbra who watches his doings with similar anxiety.

Amongst the retinue, which numbers sixteen subaltern officers, a physician, and a cook, there are two interpreters, and it is not a little remarkable, as illustrating the cosmopolitan tendencies of our countrymen north of the Tweed, that one of these is a Scotchman, named Macdonald, who, from having been the son of a gamekeeper, with an enormous faculty of acquiring languages, was sent by some influential friend in the Government to complete his studies in one of the Universities, and ultimately obtained a commission to proceed to Japan, whence he now returns as the accredited servant of the Embassy. This is, at all events, the version of the French journals; and, although the Ambassadors themselves speak French, Dutch, and English indifferently, it is certain that much of their comfort must depend upon a competent interpreter. Our Engraving is from the photographs taken in Paris by M. Nadar.

Since their arrival in London the Ambassadors have been very active, and have been going about seeing all that is worthy of being seen. They have been to the Houses of Lords and Commons, to the Exhibition, to Woolwich Arsenal, to a ball given by the Civil Service Volunteers, to the Zoological Gardens, to jewellers' establishments, to engineering shops, gun-factories, &c., and everywhere have paid most minute attention to all they saw. Mechanical inventions seem to interest them most, and they are said never to tire watching machinery in motion.



SECOND AMBASSADOR.

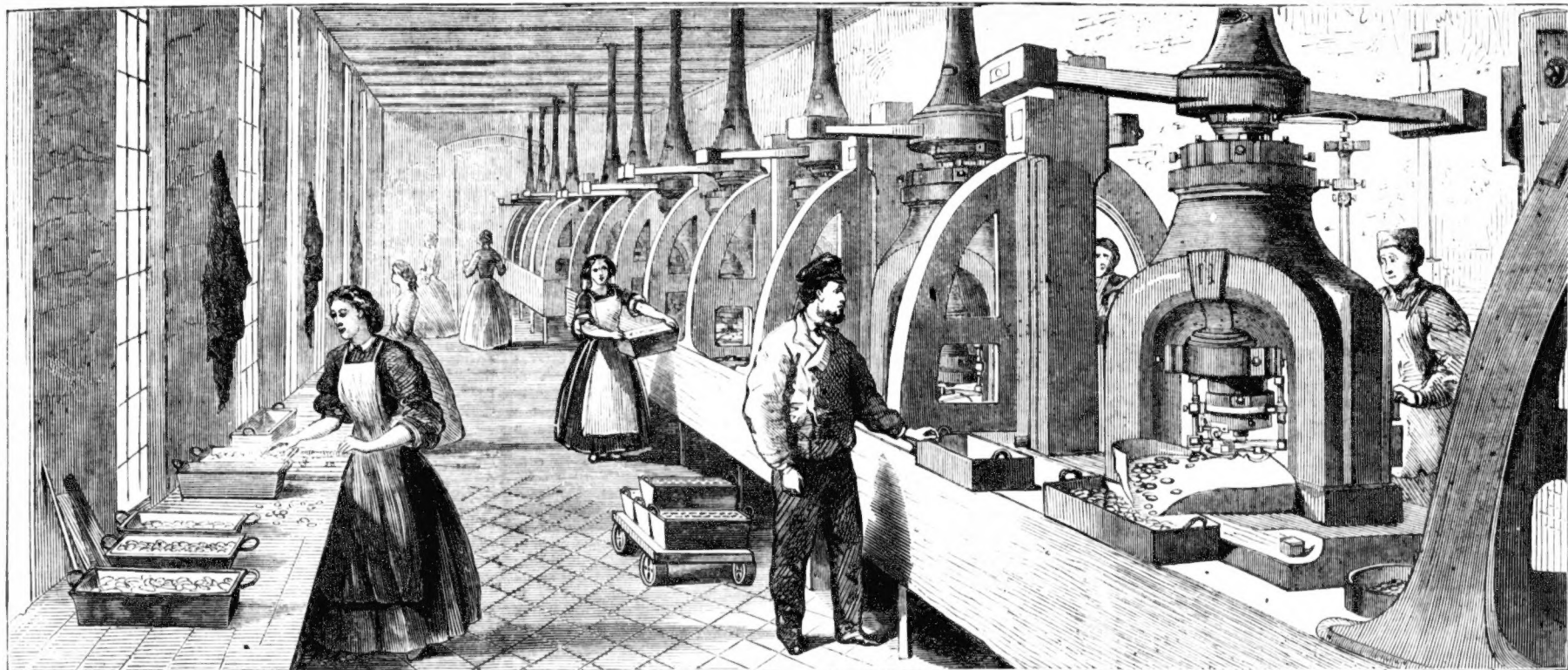
FIRST AMBASSADOR.

THE SHADOW.

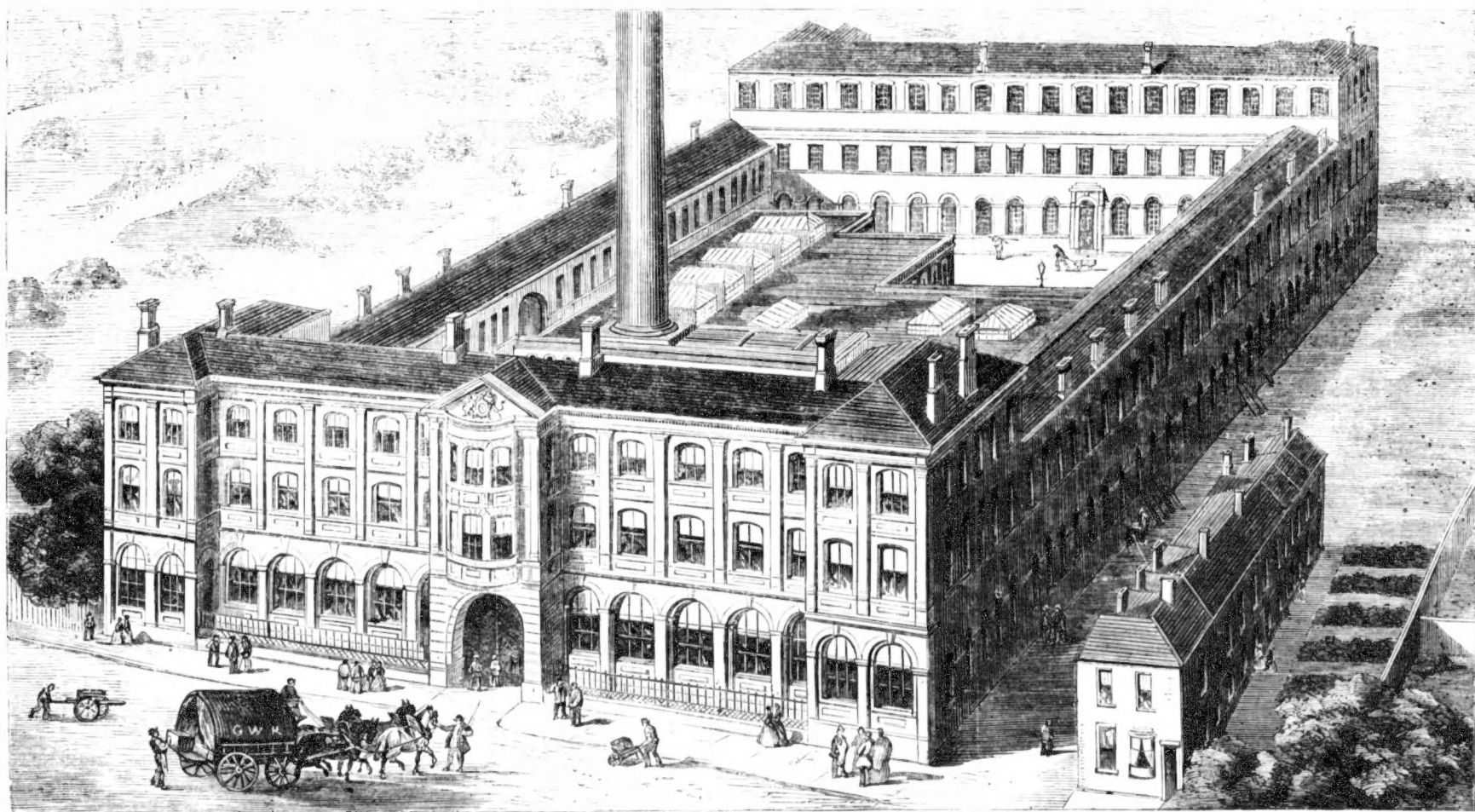
THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NADAR.)

THIRD AMBASSADOR.

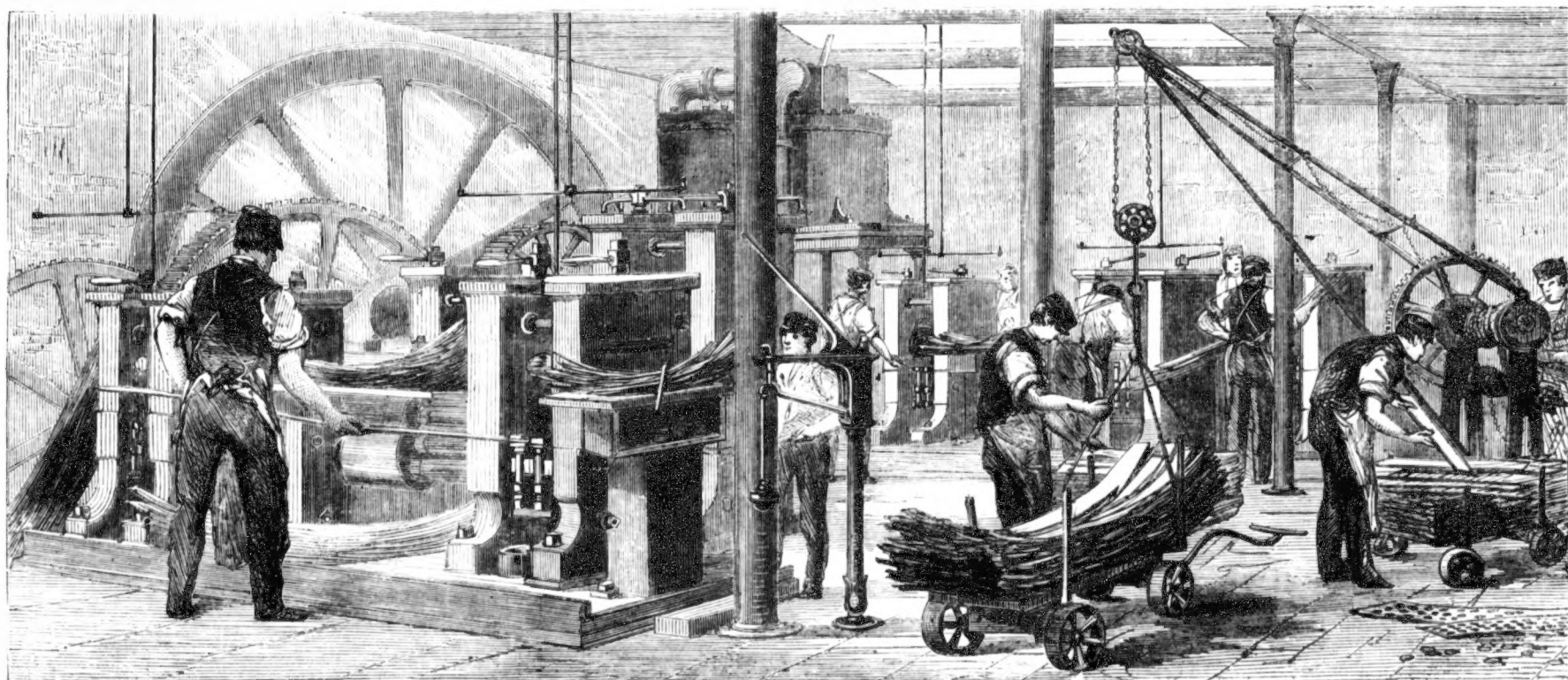
OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY.



THE COINING-PRESSES, MESSRS. RALPH HEATON AND SONS' MINT.



EXTERIOR VIEW OF MESSRS. RALPH HEATON AND SONS' MINT, BIRMINGHAM.



THE ROLLING-MILLS, MESSRS. RALPH HEATON AND SONS' MINT.

THE WORKSHOPS OF ENGLAND.

NO. II. MESSRS. RALPH HEATON & SON'S MINT, BIRMINGHAM.

THREE hundred years ago, when honest Leland made those peregrinations through the realm which are recorded in his "Itinerary," he passed through Bromwich, or Birmingham, or by whatever name the village was then called—for an industrious antiquary has counted one hundred and forty ways of spelling the word—and entered the place through a ford by a bridge, and passed along the "one streete goinge up alonge" a "meane hill by the length of a quarter of a mile." His keen observation led him to observe "There be many smithes in the town that use to make knives and all manner of cutting tools, and many lormers that make bittes, and a great many naylors;" but no prescience on his part could have foretold the height which the little town along whose street his ambling nag was steadily pacing would attain in the arts and manufactures. By the same road let us pass this day, across the same river, along the same sinuous street, and past the same old "paroch church." The eye rests here and there on some memorial of the past in the crowd of buildings of every type which meet the gaze. The old gable of a half-timbered house built in Lancastrian or Yorkist days rears its front in a few instances, though sadly elbowed by upstarts of yesterday. The fields on the river bank, with the noble old trees, under the shade of which ancient prints depict Corydons and Daphnes haymaking and fishing, are now covered with manufactories or crowded with dwellings; smoke (despite fines before the magistrates) sometimes pollutes the atmosphere; and the whirl of machinery or the panting of the steam-engine resound in every quarter, mingled with the shouts of the youthful throng who gleefully disport in the kennel.

A little farther and we are beyond the manufactories; as smoke now obscures the brilliant rays of a vernal sun glancing athwart the moving panorama around, or dims the lustre of the wares which the shopkeeper displays to such tempting advantage. The crown of the hill is gained, and to our right lies the street—New-street—the fashionable promenade, in which stands that noble school which the pious Edward VI., at the intercession of the townsmen, endowed with the possessions of a suppressed guild. At the further extremity, too, is the Townhall.

Our business, however, leads us in another direction, so we pass steadily on along the narrow High-street, which presents, in its crowded thoroughfare, not a few obstacles to our rapid progress. Safely emerging, however, we enter the dangerous defile called Bull-street, which, in olden time, contained a hostelry called "Ye Bull," wherein the pilgrim to the adjacent Hospital of St. Thomas found rest and refreshment. But "Ye Bull" is no more, and the hospital is only remembered by the names of streets in the locality called the Priory and the Minories. So, leaving the dead to bury its dead, we wend our way onward along the broad road denominated Snow-hill, which leads directly to the termination of our journey, and conclude our ramble at the extensive Copper Mint of Messrs. Heaton and Sons, whose operations in connection with the preparation of this more common kind of the circulating medium, not only in our own realm, but on the continent of Europe, in India, Upper Canada, and the South American States, have secured to the firm a reputation of the highest character in three quarters of the globe.

The first attempt to coin money in England is referable to a period subsequent to Caesar's second invasion the appearance of Roman money no doubt prompting the inhabitants to imitations, however rude. The most ancient coins known to have existed among the Anglo-Saxons were the sceattas, weighing from seven grains and a half to twenty grains and upwards. The value was less than a penny by the twenty-fifth part. There was also another, worth a quarter of a penny. The penny followed, of which 240 are supposed to have been fabricated out of a pound weight of silver; giving thus 24 grains to each, and making the pound consist of 5760 grains, as at present.

Our knowledge of the mode of coining money in early times is very defective. The metal was cast into small bars, and these were flattened by a hammer; out of these fillets, or bars, square pieces were cut of nearly equal weight, and then rounded at the force. These were stamped singly by fixing a die in a block of wood, while a second was used in a punch, and struck with a hammer till it received the required impression, at all times very imperfect.

The coining press or mill was of French origin, the invention being ascribed to one Antoine Brucher, an engraver, who, in 1553, first tried it in the palace of Henry II. for stamping counters. It was laid aside, however, in 1555 in consequence of the expense exceeding that of the ordinary hammered coinage. In 1623, Briot, a French artist, having made an unsuccessful effort to induce his own Government to recommence the abandoned process, visited England, where the machine was immediately adopted, Briot being made chief engraver to the Mint. But the question of expense again led to its disuse, and it was not till forty years afterwards that Blondeau, also a Frenchman, persuaded Charles II. to readopt it, and, though prejudice was excited for a time, it steadily maintained its ground.

The name of Boulton of the Soho, will ever be identified with the copper coinage of Great Britain. This great genius, who, with his partner, the renowned Watt, produced those mighty engines which revolutionised the power of production and gave an incalculable impetus to the onward progress of human affairs, in 1788 turned his attention to the subject of coining, and erected machinery for the purpose so extensive and complete as to perform the operation with equal economy and precision, and at so cheap a rate that the coins could not be imitated by any single artist for their nominal value, each of the stamps coining, with the attendance of a little boy, about eighty pieces in a minute.

Owing to deaths, the firm of Boulton and Watt retired from active business; and in 1850 the renowned Soho was dismantled, and Messrs. Heaton purchased a portion of the machinery, which was erected at their works in Shadwell and Bath streets. They were first employed in 1851 by the English Government and subsequently by foreign Powers, and during the last ten years have executed for different States no fewer than 1050 millions of coins, weighing upwards of 5200 tons, and which, if placed side by side, would extend over 14 800 miles. Their rapidly-increasing trade rendering it impossible to meet the demands of foreign Governments, they were induced to erect their present establishment, which is especially adapted for carrying out the largest contracts in the smallest possible period; and so extensive are the means at their disposal that their capabilities at the present time are six times as great as those of the Royal Mint in London, the number of coining-presses available for work amounting to forty-eight, which are adequate to the production of two millions of pieces per day.

The manufactory of the firm is situated in Icknield-street, on the site of the old Roman road, and, when viewed externally, presents the form of a square, the counting-houses and warehouses forming the front, and the coining-room and die-room the back, the sides being occupied with the numerous lighter machines incidental to the business, and also by the necessary requirements of the other departments of trade in which they are engaged. When viewed from the interior, however, the building is found to form a double square, the centre portion consisting of casting-shops, rolling-mills, engine and boiler house, &c. The facade possesses considerable architectural beauty, the centre consisting of a massive projecting arch, with an oval window, which is surmounted by a smaller one, over which, within the tympanum of a pediment, are placed the Royal arms. The main line of the building recedes from the centre, and consists, on each side, of three rows of windows, the wall space being relieved by a bold stringcourse running above the ground-floor story, and by pilasters extending from the stringcourse to the roof. The ends of the building are placed slightly in advance of the main line, and add considerably to the effect of the composition. The material employed is the Birmingham red brick, but in the centre store is liberally made use of.

We are received on entering the establishment by one of the partners (Mr. Harry Heaton), by whom we are conducted through every department of this wonderful manufactory.

Passing through several offices devoted to correspondence, &c., we first turn our attention to the spacious room in which the raw

material is deposited—ingots of copper piled in large stacks, suggesting untold heaps of pence, halfpence, and farthings, and all the numerous subdivisions of foreign money, the names and values of which are mysteries to our insular inhabitants. In other portions of the store, but in far more limited quantities, are tin and zinc, which, mixed with copper, constitute the staple of which the coin is composed. The coinage recently issued by our Government consists of 95 per cent of copper, 4 of tin, and 1 of zinc;* that of the new Italian kingdom, which is now being executed, has 96 per cent of copper and 4 of tin. In an adjacent building the exact proportions of the different metals necessary to make the standard required are weighed out; and this operation, in which the utmost nicety is observed, having been completed, the whole is conveyed to the casting-shop or melting-house in the yard a little distance off.

Our conductor opens a door, which is closed again with the utmost speed, for a rush of cold air while the metal is being poured into the moulds would be injurious. The first sensation of surprise being over, and the unpleasant smell of burnt oil having become somewhat familiar, we examine the scene before us in detail. On the one side is a range of melting-furnaces with small mouths, which are carefully covered up with large bricks bound with iron clamps. In these furnaces are placed crucibles made of a white clay, known as the Stourbridge clay, and holding rather more than 1 cwt. each. When the metal is reduced to a fluid state, the cover of the furnace is removed, and a huge pair of tongs, attached to a travelling-crane placed above the heads of the workmen, is affixed to the crucible, which is instantly brought into the required position for pouring its glowing contents into the moulds. Leaving it in this position for a few moments—a liberty which our casting friend would not take, however—we run glance at the moulds into which the metal is about to be run. Imagine, then, a cast-iron block several feet in length, with solid edges of the same material, against which, on both sides, are placed in a leaning position ten moulds; a slab about 15 in. long, 4 in. wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick being the size produced. Each mould, we need hardly observe, consists of two parts, being secured while the operation of casting is going on by iron fastenings. A boy is carefully rubbing them with oil, afterwards dusting them with charcoal, whence arises the unpleasant smell already alluded to; and this process is necessary, or the fresh metal might adhere to the surface. Before the mould can be used a second or subsequent time it is allowed to cool, or the metal would not be chilled, and so become spongy; and, unless these apparently trivial rules were carefully followed, deterioration and serious loss would be the inevitable result.

The moulds having been prepared, and the crucibles brought by the agency of the travelling-crane into the right position, the workman, by the dexterous use of a large pair of tongs, guides the spout of the crucible to the mouth of the mould, and, when a sufficient quantity has been poured in, with the utmost celerity repeats the operation at the succeeding one, until the entire row is filled. The like process is being carried on at the other furnaces, of which in the shop in which we now stand there are thirteen, the entire number of melting-furnaces being twenty-eight, and of casting-shops four.

The men engaged in the operations of the casting-shop are intelligent and temperate, and generally healthy, the elluvium arising from the pouring of the metal being almost imperceptible in consequence of the very small proportion of zinc made use of.

A few paces distant is the room whence the motive power for the whole of the machinery is supplied—viz., the engine-house, which contains a pair of horizontal engines of 50-horse power each. The admirable manner in which these gigantic propellers work with an almost noiseless motion, the perfect ease and regularity of their strokes, and the neatness and cleanliness in which they are kept, command notice. The floor of the room is laid with a bright tessellated pavement, and there is an entire absence of those unpleasant smells of oil and grease which are too often found in connection with machinery.

The rolling-mills come next in order. The scene here is animated in the extreme. The slabs of metal already described in the casting-shop are pressed between two heavy revolving cylinders, under the pressure of which they are slightly lengthened. Two men are engaged at each roll, the one feeding the machine, and the other receiving the metal after it has passed through. In this state it is placed in the annealing oven, where it is made red-hot, and on being withdrawn is allowed to cool gradually. Again and again it is passed through the rolls till reduced to the required size, and the piece, originally 15 in. in length, has been extended to 6 ft.; each of the strips is then cut into pieces according to the length required. But the proper tenacity has not yet been attained, and the strips are again placed in the annealing oven (the total number of times the metal goes through this fiery furnace being six), and afterwards passed through an acid commonly called "pickle," and cleaned and scored, by which the stains on the surface are removed. The rolled strips are then removed to the upper end of the shop, where men of great experience gauge every strip in several places. This operation requires great nicety, inasmuch as a variety of circumstances may produce unevenness of size in a sheet. If any doubt arise as to the exactness of the thickness a sample blank is cut out and tested by a standard coin, and if the weight vary the sheet is rejected. The importance of this will be obvious when we state that the variation from standard allowed by foreign Governments is only 1 per cent, though our own, more liberal in that respect, permits 2½.

No written description can convey an adequate idea of the ease and simplicity with which the rolling is conducted. We therefore follow the small carriage containing the tested strips to the cutting-out shop, in which the incipient coin takes its circular form.

The cutting-out press is a simple but efficient machine. It is tended by two boys, one of whom puts in the strip, which is received by the second on the other side. During the passage through the aperture the punch of the press is constantly ascending and descending, and cuts five circular pieces the size of the required coin at each stroke; these, which are called "blanks," after being cut, fall into a receptacle at the foot of the press in a continuous stream, the number each press produces in a minute being 750, or 45,000 per hour, which, being multiplied by ten—the average number of working hours per day—gives a total of 450,000 for each press, or a grand total of 2,700,000 blanks at the six presses employed.

The blanks thus cut contain many imperfect specimens, which may arise from a variety of causes, and the next step is to place the whole in a large perforated iron cylinder, which revolves at a steady pace, the motion of which causes the imperfect pieces to fall through the holes of the cylinder into a trough, while the perfect ones, through a slight inclination of the cylinder, pass to the other end and fall into a pan. Thence they are carried to the milling or cording machine, where the edges are made smooth, and slightly raised, and the rim ornamented where required. The rim of the new copper coinage is plain, as every one is doubtless aware. These machines (the invention of Messrs. Heaton) are fed by two girls, and the number of blanks passed at each end is 360 a minute, or 720 from the two, making 43 200 per hour.

Another annealing process now takes place. The blanks are put into small iron pots, the lids of which are carefully adjusted, and the junctions stopped with clay, and placed in the oven, where they remain generally about three quarters of an hour. They are then allowed to cool gradually, passed through a solution of acid, and in their wet condition are placed in a revolving wooden drum, together with a quantity of rough sandast. The small apertures of the drum causes the sandast to escape through small apertures provided for the purpose, and by the time the blanks are dry—usually in twenty minutes—all discolorations have been removed, and a uniform bright colour attained. They are then ready to receive the finishing stroke—the impression which shall cause them to be universally recognised as tokens of value.

* The contract as originally tendered was for 1720 tons, but the exact amount cannot be stated until the work is completed, which will occupy the whole of the present and a considerable portion of next year. The weight of the different coins is as follows:—Penny pieces, 48 to the pound avoirdupois; halfpenny ditto, 80 ditto; farthing ditto, 160 ditto.

Before passing, however, to the coining-room we pay a visit to the room immediately over it, and which is devoted to the preparation of the dies. These are the production of skilled workmen; but the number of dies made is limited, inasmuch as working dies are produced from the originals, and thus great expense is avoided. A simple illustration may be given in proof of this. The preparation of a pair of dies would occupy a workman for a fortnight: they would last, on the average, about half a day! In this room a large portion of the dies used in the recent British coinage were made, the ordinary number of workmen employed being twelve. The working dies alone are used, the matrices never being employed.

The coining-room presents a more impressive appearance than any other department of the establishment. A solemn grandeur gathers round the long row of huge presses. The all-prevailing *genius loci* of the place is power. Stability reigns everywhere. Noise there is, of course, in abundance; but it is the thunder of the storm, not the rattle of the street. Ranged along the room, and solemnly to immense bunks of timber, are eleven presses (three of them formerly belonging to Mr. Boulton, and used in the production of the ounce pennies of 1797 and 1799), at which the final impress is stamped on the blanks. The process is a simple one: behind the press sits a workman filling a small tube with blanks, and this he keeps constantly replenishing. At each movement of the press a blank drops from the tube and is placed beneath the die by a small feeder, acting like a pair of pliers or fingers: the blow is immediately struck, the coins fall out of their places, and pass through a small spout in a perfect shower into a pan beneath. The number struck each minute is about 80, or an average of 35,000 a day, after deducting stoppages. These presses are worked by atmospheric pressure, and are managed with the utmost facility. Two cords, called the starting and stopping lines, when drawn, instantly set them in motion or arrest them. An ingenious contrivance for preventing damage to the dies consists in the shape of a bar or fly, which is made at each motion of the press to strike a beam of wood, and thus, in the event of a blank not being inserted, prevents the upper and lower dies (as both sides of the piece are struck at one blow) from coming into contact. The ordinary wear and tear of the dies is very great. Sometimes a flaw may occur in an hour; but rarely will the die last more than two days, and in a recent contract for the Indian Government of the nominal value of £89,600 more than 2000 working dies were used.

After the coins have been struck they are carefully examined, and any defective pieces rejected; the remainder are then conveyed to the packing-room, where they are wrapped in rolls of fifty each, weighed, and finally packed in boxes, which are strongly bound with iron hoops, and forwarded to their destination. In their Continental contracts the Messrs. Heaton have been required to stamp the impressions in the countries for which the money is intended, and, in fulfilment of this condition, they have sent presses and workmen to France for the execution of the contract which some time since they entered into with the Government at Marseilles. At the present time they are engaged on an extensive contract for the Italian Government, and the blanks are forwarded to Milan, where they have machinery for the completion of the work.

The number of persons employed in the establishment is between 300 and 400—men, boys, and females. The utmost order and decorum prevail in every department, and the spacious and well-ventilated rooms conduce greatly to the comfort of the occupants. There is also a library, which is extensively used, and a flourishing sick club.

The nature of the operations undertaken by Messrs. Heaton is a proof not only of the estimation in which their firm is held for commercial integrity, but of the proud position which British uprightness and enterprise have secured throughout the world.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 184.
A HOLIDAY LOST.

ON Thursday, the 1st of May, when the Great Exhibition was opened, by all known rules and precedents we ought not to have made a House. The set-to between Dizzy and Gladstone, fixed for that night, had been postponed; the Irish business which stood on the paper was not urgent; members were tired and jaded; and every body said that we should have no House. Government did not want one. The Opposition whips openly announced that a House was not to be made; and the Irish members as a body declared that they would not go in to make one. How, then, was it that the House was made? Well, it was through mismanagement. Mr. Speaker did not arrive punctually at six o'clock. At six there were not more than thirty members in the House, but at five minutes past six the number had increased. Further, the Government whips, who in former days, when Hayter ruled, could, and would at any time when they pleased, prevent the making of a House, or count it out, have become degenerate, listless, timid, and irresolute. When Hayter flourished the whip, and Berkeley and Mulgrave were his sub, and a count out was desired, the doors were watched, one or the other of them sidled into the House, and by backs and nods, well understood, members near the door were spirited away; and if any resolute members came up they were artfully detained in conversation until the time was passed and the counting was over. Indeed, there was no end to the ingenious devices practised in those days to keep members out when a count was desired. But those times are gone. Hayter has resigned his whip, and we shall never see his like again. And, further, the Irish gentlemen were divided in heart between the out-door attractions—the park, the opera, and the club, and the chance of indulging the *cacothyes loquendi*, which is so strong a passion in the breast of every true Irishman. The sun was shining outside; the opera would be unusually gay and brilliant; there were jolly companions at the clubs; but, on the other hand, there was an Irish Secretary to be badgered, and grand opportunities for speech-making. And so it happened that several Irishmen at the last moment, after lingering in the lobby, entered within the House, and the thing was done. And then, lastly, Mr. Speaker was not prompt. He dawdled over the business of counting as if he wanted a House. When he counted from his place at the table, there were not forty members; but whilst he was slowly repeating the count from the steps of his chair, as the custom is, the Irish members aforesaid entered, and, alas! the House was made. This dawdling is a bad habit of Mr. Speaker, which he should correct. The late occupant of the chair was much more wise in his generation. When a House was really required by the Government, he counted slowly and kept his eyes on the alert; but when no one wanted a House, he looked straight before him, neither to the right nor to the left; and it was beautiful to see the velocity with which his coked-hat moved as he pointed with it to the members and told them off. You never saw him on such occasions missing his count and beginning over again, or peeping round his chair, or staring round when he had finished to see if any more members had entered. Before him there was the radius of the House; this he rapidly traversed once; and if in his passage he did not find forty members he promptly declared that the House was adjourned and swiftly left the chair. A noble Speaker was Sir Charles Lefevre, and well deserved the peerage which he got with the handsome annuity attached, if for no other reason than this—that he often got us poor reporters a holiday when one less prompt and discerning would have kept us watching and scribbling, as we were kept on the occasion in question, over the line of midnight and far into the small hours.

MAJOR O'REILLY AS FANCY PAINTED HIM.

If you think I come hither as a lion,
It were pity of my life: no, I am no such
Thing; I am a man, as other men are.—Bottom the Weaver.

What a wonderful creative power has Imagination! Major O'Reilly was the man who headed that wonderful Irish brigade of volunteers which went to Rome to help Francis II. and the disconsolate Pope. It is well Major O'Reilly and his brigade did not do much there. If we remember rightly, all that they did was to get themselves taken captive en masse and sent back somewhat contemptuously to their native land. But the Major had been there; and, further, he had

bearded landlordism in Longford, and had spoken "prave ords" on the hustings, which roused the people to such a fury of excitement that the military had to get under arms, and landlordism and Colonel White were swept away like chaff before a storm. And busy Fancy had painted this man as a veritable fire-eater, a roaring lion, a political ogre, and had foretold such storms and explosions in the House when he should appear, the like of which we have not had for years. Indeed, Major O'Reilly's appearance was looked for with intense interest. When it was known that he was under the gallery waiting to be sworn there was quite a rush to see him, and as he walked to the table every eye was turned upon the man to scan and take measure of the hero which Fame had heralded with so much noise.

FACT V. FANCY.

But now mark how inexorable Fact can destroy Fancy's creation. Major O'Reilly's appearance, as he walked up the House, did much to dissipate our illusion. Fancy had painted him as a giant—a terrible ogre—or at best as a fierce, swaggering whiskeando. But there is nothing of all this in the gallant Major's appearance. In person he is short; in bearing he is quiet, modest, and retiring; whilst in his countenance, though he wears a moustache and big beard, you can discover no evidence whatever of that fiery impulsiveness and fierce disdain which from his performances on the Longford hustings you might have expected. But still Fancy strove to maintain her ground. "Never mind his looks," she said, "but wait till he speaks. Small men are often very irascible, and men of amiable looks not unfrequently can flare up in a moment into boundless fury. Snow-clad mountains often have fiery volcanoes concealed below, and perhaps under all this quiet outward look there may be an impulsiveness and volcanic force which we little dream of." Well, in obedience to Fancy's hints, we waited till the gallant Major spoke. We expected that he would have addressed the House during Bowyer's debate: the subject was Francis's wrongs and the Pope's danger; and their special champion ought, of all others, to have appeared in the field. Everybody expected that he would show. Anxious inquiries were made about him. Mr. Speaker was prepared to call his name as soon as he rose; and, as each succeeding orator sat down, every eye was turned to the gallant Major's place. But he did not show: indeed, he was not there. This was remarkable, and at the close of the debate Fancy shook her head and paled somewhat her glowing colours. But on Friday week he did speak. The subject was Irish famine, introduced by Mr. Maguire in his impulsive and somewhat fiery manner; and when the gallant Major rose we involuntarily exclaimed, "Now we shall have a storm!" This is just one of the Major's subjects; for did he not at Longford denounce Ireland's oppressors, lament over her wrongs, and openly demand, in fierce and fiery words, "Ireland for the Irish"? And it was obvious that most of the House expected an event; for when the Major rose all the noise ceased, the Irish members who were on the move or at the bar scuttled to their places, and Sir Robert Peel and other occupants of the Treasury bench turned round to get a full view of their redoubtable foe. But what a falling off was there! How all our illusions vanished in a moment, and how did inexorable Fact destroy with a breath all the pictures which in such fervid colours Fancy had painted; for the gallant Major had not uttered a sentence before we found that we had been mistaken in our man. We expected to see him leap to his feet with the impetuosity of a Whitehead, shout out Mr. Speaker with a voice that should make the House echo again, and proceed to deliver in fiery strain an harangue that would drive all the Irish wild with excitement. But there was nothing of the sort. He rose slowly, he spoke in a low and subdued tone, his manner was modest, and, in short, instead of being "Hibernicis ipsis Hibernior"—more Irish than the Irish—he was hardly Irish. Indeed, except for a certain decided Irish twang, if we had shut our eyes we might easily have imagined that it was a dull Englishman drawing out a speech instead of the leader of the Irish brigade and the fierce denunciator of the Longford hustings. But all this is not uncommon. The House of Commons is a famous lion-tamer. Many a fierce hustings orator has had to lower his topknots and moderate his tone when he got into that charmed circle. Still, we are bound in justice to say that the gallant Major's speech was not a bad speech; on the contrary, as a first attempt, it was really a very passable speech. But it was not what we expected—that is all.

SIR ROBERT PEELE.

The proceedings inside the House during the week that has passed since we last took up our pen have been dull and weary in the extreme. Sir Robert Peel on Friday night made a good speech, it is said, on that Irish famine business, and gained some credit with his party, but him we did not hear. Indeed, Sir Robert's speeches are not specially attractive to us; they are rather painful than otherwise. Sir Robert is a horse with capital points. He has a noble bearing, excellent action, and, had he no faults, it would be a pleasure to see him dash along. But he bolts and stumbles, and keeps all who look at his performances in doubt and fear lest he should take the bit in his teeth and bolt away with his rider or suddenly come down with a crash. Lord Palmerston rides him with a tight rein and double curb, and watches him well; but you are never sure of a horse with such faults. When Sir Robert is harnessed to that notably quiet old roadster Cardwell, he pads along safely and well; but Cardwell has other work to do, and cannot always be harnessed to this wild colt. Well, as the inside of the House is dull and dreary, let us look outside.

THE JAPANESE.

And here is something novel at least, for, see, the Sergeant-at-Arms has got the Japanese Ambassadors in tow, and is showing them the wonders of the Palace. What queer beings they are, in their broad-brimmed wicker hats, their black capes and silk petticoats; queer from our point of view, but from their point of view we are no doubt, as odd. Let the reader remember that, and reflect thereon. These strangers, under the conduct aforesaid, and their interpreter, went over the building—to the House of Lords, to the House of Commons, to the libraries, the refreshment-rooms, &c. They seemed to the eye of the looker on dull and incurious; but we have learned that they were not really so, but scanned everything minutely, expressed their astonishment, were exceedingly intelligent, and often drew out their tablets to make notes of what they saw; probably some one of them will write an account of their visit when they get home. How we would like to see this well and accurately translated—to see ourselves as others see us. Nor do we believe, from what we saw of them, that they are incapable of describing intelligently what they observed; for when we got near them, it was easy to discern marks of intellect in their faces and sparkling intelligence in their vivacious eye. The old man, who seemed to be the head of the party, we were particularly struck with. He is evidently a thoughtful man, and certainly a gentleman; for the manner in which he received the courtesies of Lord Charles Russell, the Sergeant-at-Arms, when first introduced to him, though it was not our manner, was obviously that of a well-bred person. Lord Charles received them with marked respect. When they were announced he left his chair, proceeded to the lobby, and conducted them to the foot of the stairs leading to the Ambassadors' Gallery. Each of the Japanese was armed with two formidable swords, and, as a rule, no stranger is allowed to enter the House armed; but in this case the rule was suspended. The House was in Committee whilst the Ambassadors were there; they, therefore, did not see our robed and wigged Speaker; but I learn that there was no difficulty in explaining this matter to their understanding. Mr. Walpole it was that had the honour of speaking before these illustrious strangers. He was talking about the revised code, which few here understand; and, of course, it would defy all attempts on the part of the interpreter to make it plain to his friends.

THE OLD GUNS which have for so many years done duty at the North Fort, Liverpool, have been dismantled and new ones substituted. A 100-pound Armstrong has been mounted on the Rock Ferry Battery, New Brighton.

Imperia Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 3.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

ECCLIASTICAL DILAPIDATIONS BILL.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY moved the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Dilapidations Bill, which, after some discussion, was referred to a Select Committee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Register of Voters Bill and the Exchequer Bills (£1,000,000) Bill were read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TREATY OF COMMERCE WITH ITALY.

In answer to Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. LAYARD said that the Italian Government had sent over a special envoy to negotiate a commercial treaty with this country.

THE ARMY.—SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE AT ALDERSHOT.

On going into Committee of Supply, Sir G. C. LEWIS, in reply to Mr. Ewart and Colonel Dunne, said that on Jan. 1, 1862, there were 1660 native troops in China, and they were not included in the Estimates. With regard to the Institute at Aldershot, it was his intention to carry out the recommendations of Captain Jackson.

STATE OF IRELAND.

Mr. MAGUIRE called attention to the fact that several deaths from starvation had occurred recently in Ireland, and asked whether the Government had received official information of such cases having occurred? and, if so, whether they had taken or were about to take any steps in consequence, and to lay on the table any papers on the subject? The hon. gentleman at some length brought forward a number of statistics to prove his assertion of the destitution which prevails in Ireland. He suggested assistance by Government to Ireland in the shape of loans and advances to railway.

Sir R. PEELE, avowing that a portion of the people of Ireland had suffered from exceptional circumstances connected with climatic influences, contended that the efforts of Mr. Maguire to make out a strong case of neglect of duty on the part of the Government had failed. Referring to statements of Mr. Maguire as to the deaths of certain persons from destitution, he stated that the Irish Government sent down specially to inquire into certain cases alluded to, and from evidence which had been received it was proved that the deaths in question did not occur from famine. He contended generally that the Government had exerted themselves to meet the difficulties which had arisen in Ireland; that the difficulties were not beyond the power of the poor law and the efforts of private charity; but that, if that proved not to be the case, it could only be attributed to the dispensations of Providence, to which all earthly powers must bow.

Major O'REILLY, in a maiden speech which elicited the congratulations of his friends, contended that considerable distress existed in various parts of Ireland, and that it was the duty of the Government to amend the poor law so as to make it more compatible with the wants and feelings of the people.

The discussion was continued by Mr. McMahon, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Brady, Sir G. Bowyer, Mr. Hennessy, and Sir H. Bruce.

Sir G. GREY said that the discussion which had taken place proved that there was not unanimity as to the existence of general distress in Ireland; and, although it might be that there was some local suffering, yet it was hoped that it was not beyond the power of the poor law to cope with and relieve it.

After a few words from Mr. Monsell and Mr. Whalley, the subject dropped, and the motion was withdrawn.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on the Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill,

Mr. BENTINCK made some remarks on certain points connected with the bill, urging that there were several omissions, and that it did not go far enough in some respects, especially in regard to the subject of lights on the coasts of England. Vast sums were paid for this object, and yet the coasts of England were worse lighted than those of any other country.

The further proceeding with the bill was postponed until Monday.

MONDAY, MAY 5.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

LAW REFORMS.

The Declaration of Title Bill, the object of which is to facilitate the transfer of land, was, on the motion of Lord Cranworth and after a brief discussion, read a third time and passed.

The Security of Purchasers Bill, on the motion of the same noble and learned Lord, was also read a third time and passed.

The Transfer of Land Bill, on the motion of the Lord Chancellor, after some discussion, was read a third time and passed, as was the Real Property Title of Purchasers Bill, on the motion of Lord St. Leonards.

The Exchequer Bills (£1,000,000) Bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Doulton took the oath and his seat for Lambeth.

THE REVISED CODE ON EDUCATION.

In Committee on the Revised Code of Education progress was resumed. Mr. WALPOLE said the Government had announced the modifications in the revised code in a most frank and conciliatory manner; and the opponents of the measure ought to meet the Government in the same spirit. He proceeded to point out his reasons for thinking it wise for Parliament to accept the code as now modified, although in some respects he still thought that in some of its parts it would not work well. Having stated some objections he especially pressed the point that there was not sufficient encouragement held out by the code to the establishment of schools where none existed. He was on the whole prepared to accept the altered code as an experiment, but not as a final settlement, until it was ascertained that it worked well. He then formally moved the first resolution, which stood in his name on the paper, but with no intention of pressing it, since its principle had been considered.

After some remarks by Mr. Puller,

Mr. HENLEY, observing that he was bound to acknowledge that the Government had gone further to remove objections than could have been expected, and that he agreed with Mr. Walpole that the House must not be held pledged to the code as modified, but must see how it worked, examined at considerable length and in much detail various parts of the scheme, protesting against certain positions laid down by Mr. Lowe in his published speech touching religious instruction, especially that the Committee of the Privy Council had only to deal with secular matters, and (unless he had misunderstood him) that they had nothing to do with religious teaching.

Observations were made by Mr. Kinnaird, Lord Enfield, Mr. Newdegate, and Mr. Dillwyn.

Sir J. PAKINGTON quite concurred with Mr. Walpole that, after the concessions made by the Government, in deference to the opinions expressed in Parliament, whatever he might think of the probable working of the revised code, there was no sufficient ground for further Parliamentary opposition. At the same time he regretted that owing to further time not being given, a fair opportunity had been lost of bringing this difficult question to a final settlement. He regarded the present code as not even an approach to a settlement, but as experimental only.

Lord R. CEIL agreed that the concessions made by the Government were far greater than the House had a right to expect. But by the present scheme, he observed, tests for results were practically abandoned. He consented to the trial of the code as an experiment.

Mr. FRASE and Mr. ADDERLEY briefly discussed some points connected with the general subject.

Mr. LOWE said he was happy to find that the House accepted the propositions of the Government; he should, therefore, not re-enter into the discussion of the whole subject, but merely answer questions put to him. With reference to the protest of Mr. Henley on the subject of religious instruction, he had said nothing that was new, but he sought to give a true and fair account of the working of the system; and the concessions left the matter of religious teaching just where it was, the Committee of Council standing impartially between all religious bodies.

The resolution was then withdrawn.

Mr. WALTER moved a resolution "That to require the employment of certificated masters and pupil-teachers by managers of schools as an indispensable condition of their participation in the Parliamentary grant is inexpedient and inconsistent with the principle of payment for results, which forms the basis of the revised code."

Mr. Thompson seconded the motion; which was supported by Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Dooles, and Mr. Henley, and opposed by Mr. Adderley.

Mr. LOWE pointed out what he considered would be the effect of adopting the resolution. The principle of payment for results existed no longer; a collateral security was to be done away with, and an imperfect security of an examination substituted; and he put it to the House whether, if it adopted the resolution, there would be adequate security for the expenditure of the public money.

Mr. BAINES moved a resolution, "That it is expedient that the managers of a school, before receiving capitation money from the Committee of the Privy Council, should satisfy the Inspector that the circumstances of the parents of the children are such as to require public assistance for their education."

The resolution was supported by Mr. Barrow and Mr. Barnes, and opposed by Lord J. Manners and Mr. G. Hardy.

Mr. LOWE recommended that the resolution should not be pressed, as it only affirmed a principle upon which the code was based.

The resolution was negatived.

Mr. BAINES moved another resolution, that it is unnecessary and inexpedient to grant public money for the support of evening schools, which was likewise negatived.

Mr. H. A. BRUCE moved the following resolution:—"That, as the great majority of children in Wales are, on their admission to schools, ignorant of or imperfectly acquainted with the English language, in which their examination is conducted, such examination shall not, in any school in the Principality, be commenced until the children have attained the age of seven years."

Mr. LOWE stated his reasons for declining to agree to this resolution. Colonel PENNANT supported the resolution, which was negatived, upon a division, by 136 to 61.

Mr. ADDERLEY moved the following resolution:—"That it is desirable to maintain a premium on the acquisition by schoolmasters undertaking large schools of the present standard of a second year's training."

This resolution, opposed by Mr. Lowe, was withdrawn, and the House resumed.

The other business transacted was not of special interest.

TUESDAY, MAY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat only for a short time on Tuesday. The business transacted was of a purely routine nature.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MAYNOOTH GRANT.

Mr. Whalley brought on his motion respecting the Maynooth grant, which after a brief debate, in which Sir R. Peel and Mr. Newdegate spoke, the motion was lost by 193 to 111.

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.

Mr. LINDSAY moved a resolution to the effect that measures ought to be adopted to carry out the resolutions of June 19, 1860, in regard to harbours of refuge. He entered into lengthy details to show that innumerable lives would have been saved had harbours of refuge been provided.

Admiral DUNCOMBE seconded the motion, in which he heartily concurred, but at the same time expressed his apprehension that the state of the national finances would prevent the Chancellor of the Exchequer from providing the necessary means.

Mr. BAXTER opposed the motion, and warned the House how it entered upon an expenditure the extent of which it had no means of ascertaining.

After some observations from Sir F. Smith, Lord A. Temple, Mr. Pease, and Mr. Blake,

Mr. M. GIBSON, in opposing the motion, reminded the House that a bill had been recently passed authorising the Public Works Loan Commissioners to make advances of money, repayable in fifty years, at three per cent interest, for the enlargement and improvement of existing harbours, that numerous advances had been made during the present year, and that several additional plans were now under consideration. He contended that no faith could be placed in the estimates of the commissioners, as they were mere speculations, and were not based upon any scientific calculations. Mr. LINDSAY proposed that the Government should raise £2,500,000, and that local authorities should raise £1,500,000 more, making a total of £4,000,000 in order to carry out the recommendations of the commissioners; but he (Mr. Gibson) had no hesitation in saying that £6,000,000 would not suffice, and that in all probability £8,000,000 would be required. The Government had not received any applications from shipowners in favour of those harbours of refuge, neither was there any reason to believe that the shipping interest would consent to tax themselves by a passing toll or anything of the kind.

Mr. Liddell and Sir S. M. Peto supported the motion.

Sir J. PAKINGTON observed that this subject was a national one, involving the commercial interests of the country, and the House had facts before it in evidence of the serious loss of life and property, the reports of a Committee of that House and of a Royal Commission, and a vote of the House in favour of harbours of refuge; and, with respect to the cost, Mr. Gibson had set aside the calculations of the Commissioners and substituted his own loose conjectures.

Sir G. C. LEWIS opposed the motion and deprecated taking any precipitate step, in the present state of the public finances.

The debate was continued by Mr. Bentinck, Mr. Crossley, Sir F. Baring, and Sir Stafford Northcote. On a division, the motion was negatived by 115 to 77.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. McMAHON moved the second reading of the County Courts Procedure Bill, which was opposed by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, and negatived without a division.

The Smoke and Nuisance Acts Amendment Bill passed through Committee without amendment.

The Public-house (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill was considered in Committee, many amendments being moved and some carried.

The Select Committee on Inland Revenue and Customs was nominated.

THURSDAY, MAY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships sat only a short time. No business of any great public importance was transacted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Hibbert took the oath and his seat for Oldham, in the room of Mr. W. J. Fox, who resigned.

CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill,

Sir S. NORTHGOTE, in calling attention to the nature of the measure before the House, criticised a speech of Mr. Gladstone at Manchester on the revenue of the country, and said that, with regard to the finances of the present year, he (Sir S. Northcote) wished to have a decided answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to two questions—first, did he consider this an exceptional case; and if he did, upon what grounds did he consider it to be such? He admitted that it was necessary to keep the country in a strong condition in order that it might carry its weight in the councils of Europe, but that could not be done by ostentatiously raising in a time of peace. He contended that the right hon. gentleman would have pursued a much better policy if he had strictly adhered to those principles of political economy which had been laid down by Sir R. Peel.

Mr. W. FORSTER admitted the necessity of retrenchment in the expenditure of the country, and he had no doubt before the Session was over the sense of the House would be taken upon the question.

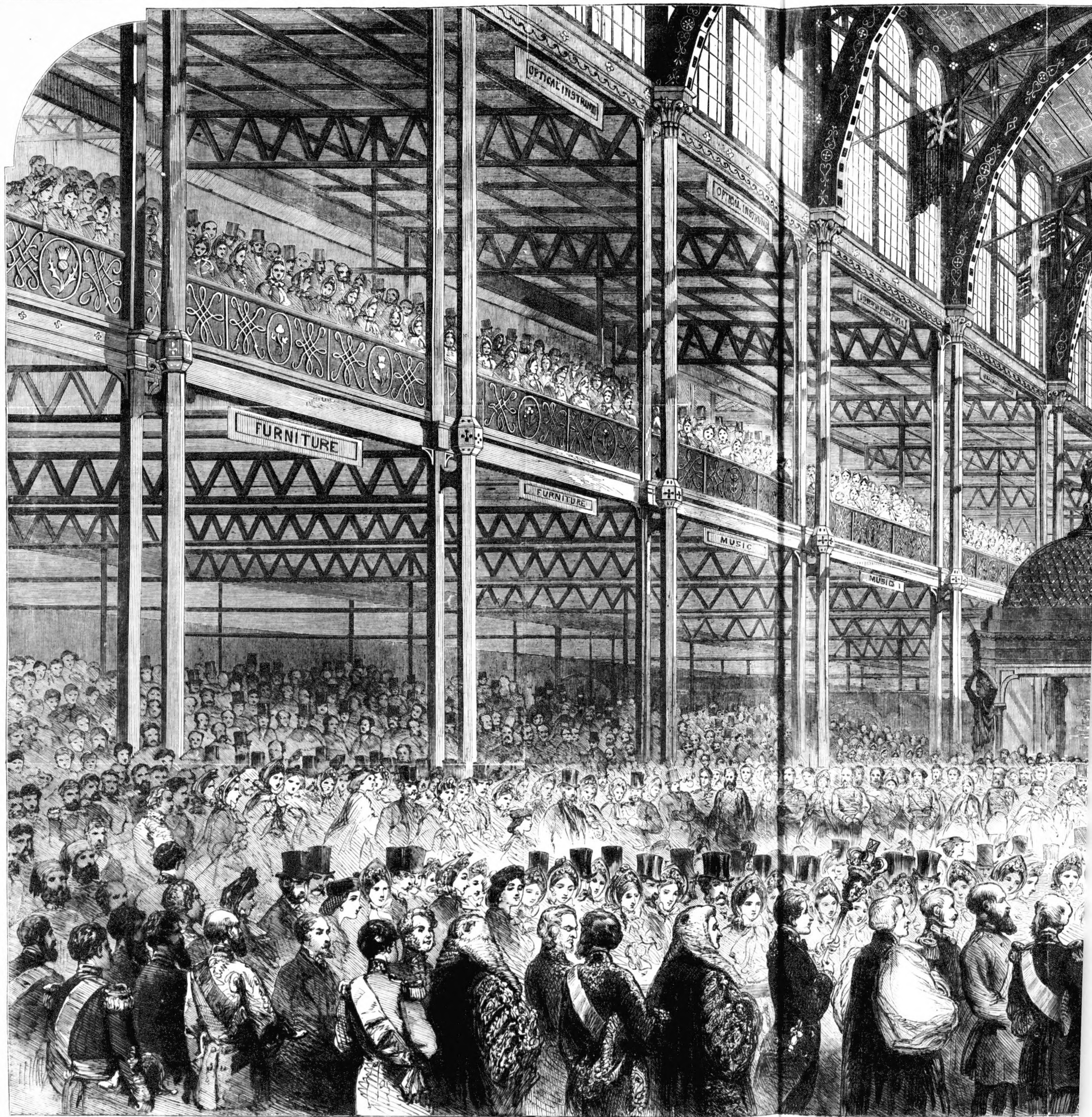
After some observations from Mr. Hubbard,

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER expressed some surprise at the mode in which the hon. Baronet had criticised a speech which he had made in Manchester, and objected to the construction which he had put upon it. The right hon. gentleman then proceeded to reply to the charges made against him. He did not deny his responsibility as Chancellor of the Exchequer, but it was not quite so extensive as the hon. Baronet had represented it. He was not responsible for the estimates in every department of the Government. If he were, the heads of those departments might be abolished altogether. His duty was to see that there was no lavish expenditure of the public money when he had it in his power to prevent it. He had never denied the responsibility of the House or the Government. On the contrary, he had always asserted it. The complaints out of doors about taxation were so great that the question required the serious attention of Parliament. It was not every Chancellor of the Exchequer that had to deal with £70,000,000 of taxation in a time of peace, and therefore few were aware of the amount of pressure he was under to raise the revenue. He believed that he had to provide £70,000,000 in a time of peace; and, further, he believed that, when the hon. Baronet or the right hon. gentleman by his side (Mr. Disraeli) took his (the Chancellor of the Exchequer's) place, they would be able to do it. With regard to the abolition of the paper duty, how could the Government avoid that course? It was condemned by that House only two days before the Budget was produced, without its being known whether there would be a surplus or not; and, in the face of that vote, was it possible to retain it, particularly when they had a surplus of £1,000,000 in hand. The right hon. gentleman then referred to the increased trade that had sprung up in this country in consequence of the abolition of that duty as a justification of the measure. He then adverted to the Treaty with France, and contended that the benefits it had conferred on the nation were the result of wise and beneficial legislation.

Mr. DISRAELI said he was glad to find that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had officially declared that he accepted the responsibility of the expenditure and would never shrink from defending it. The right hon. gentleman had justified the repeal of the paper duty on the ground that he had a surplus of £1,000,000, but that very year he had £1,000,000 of Exchequer Bonds coming due which he could not pay, and he selected that moment for the repeal of a tax to that amount, which very few asked for or cared about. He believed that the members of that House had not understood the financial condition of this country until the present time, when a bill was proposed that would levy for one year one of the largest amounts that had ever been included in one bill—a sum exceeding £24,000,000. And the Government expected that that House was to pass such a bill, as a matter of course, with a silent vote, although most of its provisions were for war taxes on certain articles. The expenditure of the country was not exceptional, but he contended it was excessive on account of the foreign policy of the Government, which, he said, was calculated to involve this country in the most serious difficulties with the nations of Europe generally. It was his belief that if the same policy were continued for four or five years more it would lead this country into a foreign war of a most disastrous character, inasmuch as it would find us with exhausted finances and crippled means.

Lord PALMERSTON criticised the speech of Mr. Disraeli in a vein of ridicule which occasioned considerable laughter, taunting the right hon. gentleman with displaying an impatience for office. The noble Lord proceeded with considerable power to justify the policy of the present Government both at home and abroad.

After some further discussion the bill was read a second time.



THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—THE PROCESSION PROCEEDING ALONG THE NAVE 1



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—THE PROCESSION PROCEEDING ALONG THE NAVE TO THE EASTERN DOME.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1862.

PROVINCIAL DISTRESS.

EVERY great principle must have its martyrs. That of non-intervention is no exception to the rule. It seems easy enough to look on with unconcern at two combatants, and to say, "I have no interest in one or the other." But the truth is that among nations, as among individuals in a single state, every one is concerned in the maintenance of the public peace. Two men fall to fighting in a public thoroughfare. The law, represented, it may be, by a single policeman, steps in between. He cares for neither of the combatants—he has no knowledge of the cause of quarrel; but in the discharge of his duty he orders both to move on, and not to block up a thoroughfare, hinder business, and afford opportunity to thieves.

The position of the belligerent States of America appears exactly to realise in the world, and on an extended scale, the condition of such a pair of brawlers in the street. They are closing a great thoroughfare of commerce by blockade, they are impeding supply in its relation to demand, and they are inaugurating a perfect saturnalia of spoliating waste, bloodshed, and destruction. All Europe looks on sorrowfully, for there are on each side assertions claiming our sympathy. But the latest new principle is non-intervention. We have interposed in quarrels often enough. There are politicians who at this day declare even Waterloo not to have been a necessity.

Our intervention in 1815, which placed on the throne of France those two jewels of Monarchs, Louis XVIII. and Charles X., leaves the nephew of the dethroned Emperor to assume his purple within three or four decades afterwards. Intervention has been tried. It may be just and proper, but it has failed. Let us give non-intervention a fair chance. We do so—we acknowledge a "paper blockade," and half Lancashire starves for want of the staple of its manufacture.

The distress of an industrial district should be considered no less with respect to its causes than its remedy. When Coventry suffered, it was from the mere disuse of a fashionable article of ornament, and the distress could be almost immediately relieved by a return to former customs. The colliery explosions were catastrophes such as stirred the feelings of humanity in every bosom and at once produced their own natural relief; but the distress of Lancashire, Lancashire has no right to bear alone. It is not just that, while the whole nation is gloating with pride over the steady and inflexible resolution with which we have maintained neutrality, even in despite of the pauperisation of our operatives, we should look upon the sufferings of those very operatives with as calm an eye as we do upon the internecine struggle in another hemisphere. If we can afford to be neutral, let us be so at our own cost, not at that of poor "mill-hands," whose ample excuse for not having provided for a "rainy day" is, that they never had the wherewithal during the sunniest of their weather.

We would by no means advocate an immediate and general subsidy, or call upon charity. Let us see what are the local means for the alleviation of distress during "a bad time." Such a period is within the limits of ordinary providence, and it is a human duty to foresee and guard against it so far as may be. But if, beyond this, one particular class or county has to suffer privations in support of a principle adopted and approved by the nation, it then becomes the duty of the nation to take care that the burden shall be distributed and equalised among the whole community.

It is no doubt true that the cotton-manufacturing districts have profited most largely by the cotton manufacture, and should naturally bear the largest share of the burden entailed by a calamity in that trade: indeed, of necessity those districts must bear, and have already borne, the first brunt of the difficulty. But, as the whole community have been benefited in no inconsiderable degree by the immense cotton-working industry of Lancashire and Lanarkshire, it is but reasonable that the whole community should aid in alleviating the existing and increasing suffering in those districts, more especially as that suffering, as we have pointed out above, is the result, not of local, but of national policy. It seems that the landlords and millowners of Lancashire have been discussing the question of local versus general subscriptions, and that a strong feeling has been expressed in favour of the former, particularly on the part of the manufacturers. All honour to them for this independent and self-reliant sentiment! but it would neither be just nor generous to throw upon local resources the whole pressure of the existing pinch. If it would be inconsistent with sound principle to invoke Government aid, at least each one everywhere can contribute his mite; and, if this be done heartily, promptly, and liberally, the suffering in the manufacturing districts may at least be greatly alleviated, if not altogether relieved.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS visited the establishment of Messrs. E. Dent and Co., 61, Strand, on Saturday afternoon. They arrived in two carriages at half-past two and stayed about two hours, inspecting very minutely the specimens of watch and chronometer work, with which (through Mr. Macdonald, who has charge of the Embassy officially) they expressed themselves highly gratified.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT HER MAJESTY HAS TAKEN SOWLE'S HOUSE, in East Cowes Park, the favourite marine residence of the late Duchess of Kent.

THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN has intimated to the public departments that, although the Queen's birthday will not this year be celebrated by the usual festivities, her Majesty desires that the ordinary holiday may be observed on the 24th of May.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL has officially announced his approaching marriage.

MISS AUGUSTA BROWNE, daughter of the Hon. and Rev. Dean of Lismore is to be married to Colonel Bentinck, of the 4th Dragoon Guards.

GENERAL TURR is at present in Paris, on his way to the exhibition of London.

THALBERG has resumed his profession in Paris.

MR. CHISHOLM ANSTEE is about to return to England in consequence of ill-health. It is understood that Mr. Anstee will not go back to India.

IT IS ASSERTED that the Emperor Napoleon has just settled the number of new iron-cased frigates in the French navy at fifty.

MAJOR COSENZA, an active agent of Francis II., has been arrested at Naples with important documents in his possession. Several other members of the Bourbon committee, of which Cosenza was president, have also been arrested.

THE SHOW OF FRUIT BLOSSOM in the south of England this season is the finest that has been known for years, and there is every prospect of a prolific crop of fruit.

EXPERIMENTS have been made with 12-pounder Armstrong field-pieces on floating targets towed by steamers. At 1000 and 3000 yards they were knocked to pieces.

THE SON OF DIOUET, who caused Louis XVI. to be arrested at Varennes, has, in consequence of a reverse of fortune, just been received into a charitable asylum at Mardelles.

THE BELGIAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS has just decided that race-horses traveling by railway to or from a race meeting shall be transported at a reduction of 50 per cent on the ordinary fare.

TUESDAY, May 5, being the obituary date of the St. Helena captive, was held in remembrance at the Tuilleries, and by all survivors of the first imperial epoch, civil and military, gathered under the dome of Les Invalides.

THE MEETING OF THE THREE CHOIRS will this year take place at Gloucester early in September. There will be four oratorio performances in place of the customary three, preluded by a full service.

A BEAUTIFUL CORONET IN DIAMONDS has been completed for the Princess Alice to form part of her wedding trousseau. The coronet of the Princess Alice is not of the stereotyped mediæval design, but has been selected from the forms of natural flowers.

A JEW, of Siedlee, Poland, having insulted a soldier, was dragged to the guardhouse, and there, by order of the commanding officer, so dreadfully flogged that he expired under the blows.

THE FOLLOWING GRANTS for charitable purposes are amongst the estimates submitted to the Victorian Legislature this year, viz.:—£75,000 for the support of the charitable institutions of the colony, £50,000 for the maintenance of deserted children, 6000 for assistance to the aborigines, and £25,000 for education.

THE QUANTITY OF HOPS exported from the United Kingdom to foreign countries from the 1st of January this year to the 31st of March was 1,767,044lb.

AT GENOA, on Thursday week, six thieves, armed with pistols and daggers, made their way into the offices of one of the principal bankers in the city. They garrotted the officials, and carried away the sum of 800,000 francs.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK has raised an army of 103,307 men, and the State of Pennsylvania an army of 109,615 men, since the commencement of the war.

ON ACCOUNT OF THE HIGH PRICE OF COTTON the Federal Post-office Department is having the letter-bags made of hemp. The manufacture of hemp has been brought to great perfection in the Federal States.

IT IS REPORTED that the Channel squadron, under the command of Rear-Admiral Smart, K.H., will visit the Baltic this summer. The St. George, with Prince Alfred on board, will form part of the squadron.

AMONGST the strange rumours which are circulating in Paris with respect to the intended voyage of Prince Napoleon to Italy, it is seriously affirmed by one who is believed to be made Viceroy of Naples under his father-in-law, King Victor Emmanuel.

A LETTER FROM BEYROUT states that the mulberry-trees are in fine condition, and that a good crop of silkworms is anticipated. Advice from Aleppo declare that the crops in that neighbourhood are most flourishing, notwithstanding the appearance of locusts on the banks of the Euphrates.

M. MIRES has addressed a letter to his creditors informing them that he intends working in order to pay his debts. He hopes, he says, that the trifle of six millions will come in from a little bit of business with Turkey. It is with this object that he intends setting out forthwith for Constantinople.

A PRISONER, named Philip Krause, a sailor, and a native of Hamburg, who had been committed to Newgate for robbing a fellow-countryman of £60, made his escape from that prison on Tuesday morning. He succeeded in getting clear off.

THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY have, by an order just issued, authorised the Commissioners of Customs to dispense with the certificate of produce at present required, under the 79th section of the Customs Consolidation Act, for rum entered as the produce of a British possession in America or of the Island of Mauritius.

AN ORDER has been issued by the General commanding the forces in Ireland to the different general officers commanding divisions to allow one-third of the officers of the several regiments under their command leave of absence for the purpose of visiting the International Exhibition—the leave not to exceed one month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS amounting to several thousand pounds have already been subscribed in order to build a County of Surrey Hospital at Guildford as a memorial to the late Prince Consort. The hospital will be situated adjacent to the town, in a commanding and remarkably healthy space of ground, which is the gift of the Right Hon. Earl Onslow.

A LADY, named Ann Essam, left a considerable portion of her estate to a Mr. Howe to be devoted to the printing and publishing of "the sacred writings of the late Joanna Southcott." The niece of the testatrix disputes the validity of the bequest, on the ground that the writings in question are blasphemous. The Master of the Rolls has taken time to examine the works himself.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE was formally installed High Steward of Cambridge on Wednesday. The day was one of general festivity in Cambridge. Advantage was taken of the event to open the new public rooms, in which a breakfast was given to the High Steward.

THE BIRTH of "a quintet of girls" on the 29th of March is recorded in the Montreal Gazette, which also states that the mother, a French Canadian, is herself one of four, all still living. The five children are "doing well," and the same may be said of the mother.

MEXICO owes England at the present time £15,000,000, Spain £2,000,000, and France £1,000,000.

GENERAL GARIBOLDI is at present at the waters of Tresscorra, where he will remain eight or ten days to recover from the weakness occasioned by his late illness.

ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS of 1860, there were 259,078 free negroes in the Slave States of America, and 222,745 in the Free States.

THE DENVERS SLUICE, about two miles from Lynn, has burst, and the whole district of the Middle Level, the drainage of which was one of the greatest engineering exploits of modern times, is in danger of being again submerged.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN shows that the total number of persons in England and Wales committed to the county gaols during the last seven years on a charge of felony is 190,356. Of this number 2088 had been previously committed for offences against the game laws.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY was seized with a severe illness on Sunday night, which caused considerable alarm: his Grace, however, is now recovering, though still weak.

THE GREAT EASTERN sailed at 2.40 p.m. on Wednesday for New York, with 140 passengers and some cargo.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

LAMBETH.—The election in Lambeth has resulted in the return of Mr. Frederick Doulton by a large majority. The official declaration of the poll on Monday showed that the number of votes given to each candidate was as follows:—Doulton, 5124; Sleigh, 754; Wilkinson, 347. Majority for Doulton over Sleigh, 4370. There are about 22,000 electors on the roll in Lambeth, so that not quite a third of the number have recorded their votes in this contest.

OLDHAM.—The election of a representative in the room of Mr. W. J. Fox, who has retired, took place on Monday morning, when Mr. J. T. Hibbert, an advanced Liberal, was returned without opposition.

ELICIDS.—Two foreign gentlemen attempted suicide in London on Monday. One of them—a Swede—was only too successful: he shot himself in one of the public thoroughfares of Chelsea, to the great terror of some ladies who were passing at the time. Another leaped out of the window of his lodgings; but life was not extinct, and he now lies, though in a dangerous state, in Charing-cross Hospital.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

EVERY day some sign appears that the Session is likely to be brought to an early close. The business is pushed on at a rapid rate by the Government, and the Opposition seems to be disposed to offer no factious opposition to its progress. Mr. Lowe has succeeded in rescuing his code out of the clutches of its enemies, and that business is cleared out of the path. This code is terribly mutilated, so much so that the Vice-President of the Council of Education hardly knows his own child. Still, no other course was open to him but to accept most of the "amendments" of his opponents, and to recognise the disagreeable fact that the educational bureaucracy is master for the time of both the executive and legislative departments of the State. We learn, however, on the authority of the *Times*, which, it is well known, speaks in this matter under the inspiration of a higher power than that of Printing-house-square, that matters cannot stand as they are, and that the time is not far distant when the people will demand a change which will secure that they get money's worth for their money. I very much doubt this. The people, unfortunately, know very little of the subject, and it is to me questionable whether anything can be done either to stop the growth of these educational grants or to control them. Our constitutional maxim is that those who pay the taxes ought to have power over those who levy them, but we have, unfortunately, in this case given this power into the hands of those who receive the money, which is rather a different thing, and not constitutional.

The Lord Advocate's Education Bill is already in *articulo mortis*. The second reading stands for Thursday, but it will not pass this stage on that day; probably it will be postponed. But, however that may be, it is understood that ultimately the bill will be withdrawn. It was a bold attempt of the Lord Advocate to please everybody, and it has met with the success which generally awaits such amiable projects, for it pleases nobody. Kirk, Free Kirk, and Dissenters have been roused against it with a most wonderful unanimity; and nothing is left for the Lord Advocate to do but quietly to abandon the bill, for if it get into Committee every feather will be plucked off by one faction or the other.

All of us who are old enough remember the "Lichfield House Compact," that "dark and baffled confederation," as Disraeli calls it in his "Life of Lord George Bentinck." Exactly what this compact was very few, if any, not in the Government, knew at the time; but it was supposed to be some agreement understood, rather than formally entered into, between Lord Melbourne's Government and the Irish party, with O'Connell at their head. For several years this "compact" made an immense stir. It was the staple of the Conservative newspapers and indignant Protestant orators all over the kingdom, and was considered to be an indelible stain on the character of Lord Melbourne and the Whigs. Well, rumour will have it that this phase of our history is repeating itself, with this difference: Then the Whigs and the Irish Catholics confederated; now the Conservatives and the Irish are in league. In short, instead of a Lichfield House compact, we have, it is said, "a Knowsley Park Confederation." But I do not for a moment believe this; that is to say, I do not believe that Lord Derby has had anything to do with the league, if league there be. He is far too wary a politician to be caught in such a trap as this. Neither can I believe that any formal compact, signed, sealed, and delivered has at all been entered into. Nothing has been written, you may rely upon it, and, perhaps, nothing directly and definitely has been said; but that some understanding exists between the Conservative chiefs and the Irish Catholics it is almost impossible to doubt. We see signs of this peeping out in every direction and in every party division. In short, it is generally believed that "a dark confederation" exists, and that the object of it, which is to get the Liberals out and the Conservatives in, is to be developed next year. But there are other signs also—to wit, signs of disgust among the Protestants, and if the wily confederates do not take care they will be hoisted by their own petard.

Mr. Gladstone is again unwell; and while I write it is apprehended that the pugilistic encounter between him and Disraeli will be again postponed. It is, I hear, the old disease of the throat which is troubling the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

First catch your hare before you cook it is a good maxim; but the Conservatives are already distributing places in the next Derbyite Government. Disraeli is to take the Foreign Office, if they cannot get him abroad, which they would prefer to do. Sir Stratford Northcote is to be the Chancellor of the Exchequer; and, if Dizzy does go abroad, General Peel is to lead the House.

Mr. Frith's new picture I hold to be one of the noblest domestic poems of the present day. To the gallery in the Haymarket, where this picture is exhibited, comes now a constant mob of people, London loungers, and fashionables who know the artist's name, and look round to get up the small talk of a subject which they know will be introduced at dinner-table, and on which they should be *au courant*; but I want to see it thronged, as I know it will be, by the *profanum vulgus*, who are *odid* and *arced*—the shilling *plebs*—full of appreciation for all that concerns themselves, who will come here and do willing homage to the great painter. Mr. Frith paints human London life in 1862 as no man has ever painted it before, and as no man, save Mr. John Leech, has ever understood it. And Mr. Frith has a delicacy and a poetry of which Mr. Leech has never given the smallest sign. There will be, I opine, small need of the descriptive book which Tom Taylor, Esq., M.A., has written, as Mr. Frith's own work is quite sufficiently plain; and it is a work which will hand his name to posterity and gather for him future fame under two phases—the one as a skilled graduate in the school of life, the other as a man of the highest accomplishment in his art; and it is but rarely indeed that these characteristics are blended. The composition of the picture is most admirable. Each group, while self-contained, is in harmonious keeping with the rest. Pleased and satisfied, the eye wanders from one to the other, arrested by no glare and chilled by no dulness; while the execution has all the elaboration without the absurd over-minuteness of the pre-Raphael school. The railway officials are literally lifelike, and on the top of one of the carriages there is a large tin box which Mr. Ruskin would designate as "precious." In fine, Mr. Dickens has been called the Hogarth of modern literature; but, from his admirable mingling of grave and gay, and marvellous power of rendering the poetic portion of every-day life without departing from the strictly natural, we may say that in his picture of "The Railway Station" Mr. Frith has given convincing proofs of his claim to be considered as the Dickens of modern art.

The private view of the pictures collected by the Royal Academy was given on Friday last to the usual anomalous collection of people. One can understand why the members themselves are present, and some of their brother artists; the press, who are there professionally; many well-known writers, who are friends of art; rich merchants, who are art-patrons, and who frequently make their purchases on these occasions; but why do the Academicians block up their not too available space, and hide their collection from the really appreciative, with bland and smirking Bishops, so painfully innocent of all worldliness as scarcely to be able to recognise an artist by his works, and hideous old dowagers who, with their simpering daughters, merely use the rooms as a mart or exchange for their senseless tattle, and deem they are honouring art by patronising it with their silly presence? This ninety-fourth exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts is unquestionably a good one, and one beyond the average. Not being hydra-headed or Briareus-handed, and having much extra work in noticing Fowkes's Folly, I am this year unwillingly obliged to give up to a collaborator my usual annual duty of reviewing the Academy exhibition; but I should wish to place on record my humble appreciation of the great improvement shown by the hanging committee in the positions which they have assigned to comparatively unknown men. I suppose academicians must be hung at any price, else why such miserable daubs as those of Mr. H. Pickersgill were suffered to cumber the wall it is impossible to say?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

I had occasion to speak last month in high terms of *Blackwood*, which seemed to have regained its original vigour. This month it is

what even in these later days it rarely is, extremely dull. Pisistratus Caxton is as wordily wise as heretofore; but his wordily wisdom is tiresome instead of trite. His subject is uninviting, and its treatment at the present moment, considering that it is chiefly addressed to the young, superfluous. I fear that the *grata juvenis* of to-day grow more and more penurious. Generosity, even to occasional recklessness, is no bad trait before the arrival of one's majority. In the latter part of the essay, however, are some excellent admonitions to those who imagine that, in mere society, extravagance will make up for the lack of personal culture; and the "well-booted Achaean" is reminded that "you sloven will be more the fashion than he." "The Renewal of Life" reads extremely like one of Lewes' papers; but the absence of illustration and suggestive analogies makes me reconsider my first guess as to its authorship. "The Chronicles of Carlingford," however, make up for a good deal of the heaviness of the other matter; nor will any one wonder who knows by what skilled hand they are written. I have read with care but grievous disappointment a short poem (?) by David Wingate, about whom puff has of late been busy. If in the forthcoming or forthcoming volume, about which there has been talk, we get nothing better than "The First Gaid Day," I think that its writer's patrons would have acted more wisely in leaving the collier of Motherwell alone. It is unkind to the man and an unnecessary intrusion on the public. We have quite enough pet poets and poetesses nursed by would-be literary cliques without a fresh instalment. Among "Sensation novels," a writer in *Blackwood* classes "Great Expectations," and condemns "Wemmick" as dull.

The publishers of the *Cornhill* have thought it necessary to inform the world through the medium of this month's number the extent of its circulation. This piece of confidence is intended for the benefit of advertisers, and there is no reason why the publishers should be ashamed to own it. In his story à la mode in the "Roundabout Paper," Mr. Thackeray informs us that the new editor of the *Cornhill* will not stand any nonsense. He cannot possibly have yet entered upon his functions, for assuredly he would not have admitted this story à la mode, which is the most atrocious nonsense which I have seen in print for some time. I am sorry not to be able to speak much more favourably of the supply of Philip's adventures. With the exception of a letter from his father, which comes at the end of this month's chapters, his adventures are of a very sorry and meagre kind. I am anxious to have the promised "Life of Queen Anne." Mr. Thackeray is an admirable writer, when he has a subject; but I suspect that one must be found for him now. He has no reason to sigh over the disappearance of creative power, since he is not the first man whom it has accompanied pretty well on to fifty and then abandoned. "The Great Naval Revolution" wants only a little modesty to be most admirable. Mr. Doyle's bird's-eye view of Rotten-row in the season must be meant as a simple and wilful contradiction to every man and woman who has eyes and has seen it. Sir John Herschel is a scholar, and has as perfect a right to translate Homer into hexameter, or rather so-called hexameter, meter, as the rest who have attempted the same task and miserably failed; but unless the publishers wish again to have to calm the doubts of advertisers, they will not insert any more of this detestable hop-skip-and-jump versification. It is a very good toy for scholars to amuse themselves with; but the 81,127 purchasers will find the toy somewhat unmanageable one. "Agnes of Sorrento" has, at last, come to a close, and will I hope be followed by something more entertaining. "The Wakeful Sleeper" is quite up to the mark of the *Cornhill* estimate of poetry.

Mr. Sala seems determined to prove that he can do everything. His writing in "The Strange Adventures of Captain Dangerous" is a perfect marvel of imitation; but I question whether general readers will be as much interested by its contents as students of taste by its style. Temple Bar, however, strives to suit every taste in its May number. We have both diversity and considerable merit. The most valuable article is probably "The Battle of the Ethnologists," though the most curious and noticeable is one headed "New Notes from Old Strings." Some of the notes are very quaint. "Aurora Floyd" maintains its interest, and is well supported by two tales which tell their story in one number.

Fraser is agreeable reading without any very noticeable article, save it be Miss Frances Power Cobbe's narrative of her recent sojourn in the "Eternal City," which is generally distinguishable for its violent abuse of English men and women, and its by no means choice onslaught on the ex-Queen of Naples. There is a clever, though by no means exhaustive, criticism on the recent translation of "Dante" by Messrs. Rossetti and Theodore Martin. The continuation of the notices of "Editors and Newspaper-Writers of the Past Generation" this month treats of Mackintosh, Spinkie, and John Adolphus.

Macmillan contains some cleverly drawn and very unreticent word-portraits of the principal Northern statesmen in America.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

M. FECHTER has taken the LYCEUM THEATRE, and will commence his season after Christmas next. Romantic drama and light sauteville will be the staple attractions. A report which has been circulated that a gentleman with whom M. Fechter has been recently engaged in literary collaboration will act as his stage manager is wholly without foundation.

A very pleasant burlesque, called "Prince Amabel," and written by Mr. William Brough's happiest vein, has been produced with success at the St. James's. Two debutantes, the Misses Nelson, appeared in it, one of whom, Miss Carry, is likely to become a great favourite.

A preposterous piece, called "Keep Your Temper," plotless almost, but full of bustle from first to last, has been played at the Strand.

THE LOUNGER AT THE EXHIBITION.

OF THE OPENING DAY, AND GENERAL NOTIONS.

THE reporters for the public press led the world to imagine that the proceedings connected with the opening of the International Exhibition on Thursday week gave the most universal satisfaction, and I have no doubt that, so far as they (the reporters) were concerned, everything went off well. It is a pleasant privilege that enjoyed by the "writers for the papers," and its professors are, amongst the foremost of those whom managers of public entertainments of every kind are delighted to honour. Thus, then, the gentleman representing the *Times* walked in the procession among the grandes of the land; and even the correspondents of country papers battled and fought until they obtained a recognition of their position in the fourth estate. But as on this occasion I declined availing myself of my credentials as your ambassador, thinking that I should be able to form a more impartial estimate of affairs by appearing as an ordinary five-guinea season ticket holder, I regret that I can in no way endorse these encomiums, and I must say that my British grumblings have found ready echoes and occasional promptings from nearly all unofficial quarters.

So far as reaching the building was concerned, nothing could have been better arranged. Coming from the north-west, I joined the string of carriages inside the Marble Arch, and thence proceeded, at very fair average progress, to the gate of the Horticultural Gardens without the smallest inconvenience. The entrance was perfectly easy, you merely had to show your ticket, without any bother of signing, and you at once passed through the grounds and were admitted into the building with equal facility. But, once in, your state became pitiable indeed. What strangers paying their first visit can have made of it I can only imagine by the glimpses I caught of the same groups rushing at first excitedly, then wandering aimlessly up and down passages and avenues, in and out of courts, and round and round trophies, imploring seats and guidance where none were to be had. Policemen, as a rule, know very little; they can never give you a very clear direction to anywhere; but here they knew absolutely nothing, save that they were to keep every one out of everywhere. In a very few minutes I found that I had already received all the benefit I was likely to get from my five-guinea ticket—i.e., admission into the building. As for a seat with the chance of any view, it was perfectly hopeless. All the seats were strictly reserved, and only admissible for holders of special invitations

issued by the directors. I observed these select ones with great interest when they were assembled, and I am bound to say that they did credit to the bad taste which the commissioners have from first to last exhibited. Such a heterogeneous mass! Here and there an officer of the Army or Navy (generally old men in very shabby uniforms) wedged in among deputy-lieutenants more cock-hatted than any Field Marshal in the service, and blazing in scarlet and silver; fat, greasy aldermen in their fur-edged gowns; municipal magnates from the provinces; heads of colleges from the universities; Doctors of Civil Law in their purple hoods; perspiring curates with white chokers of portentous depth; ladies with crinoline standing at very curious angles under pressure of the crowd; and volunteers with nothing but the feather of their shako visible among masses of millinery. This extended from end to end, and was impossible of penetration; so, with a blessed feeling of relief, and that I had made an attempt to see the procession, a sight of which would not have afforded me the smallest gratification, I took up my position in an angle under the gallery opposite the orchestra, where I could see nothing but the heads of the chorus and the gyrations of some dozen individuals who were clinging on to a scaffold-pole labelled "Tasmania." Here I was secluded, but by no means solitary. Divers old ladies of maiden aspect who feared the crowd but loved the music were seated on inverted packing-cases; Mossoo was there, too, in numbers—workman Mossoo, *ouvrier*, with nothing on but very baggy blue trousers and dirty shirts, had swarmed up pillars and balanced himself on ledges above our heads, and was shouting to Achille, preparing to start, "*Depêchez-toi! il y a un coup-d'œil magnifique!*" and on some large agricultural engine, hastily painted in bright blue and red, a crowd of Mossoos, bandsmen, South Kensington volunteers, and several ladies, had perched themselves, and were struggling for a glimpse of the proceedings.

So here I sat and listened to distant shoutings, the meaning of which I had not the remotest actual knowledge of, but which former experience enabled me to realise, and listened to the orchestra, for a proper appreciation of which I was admirably placed. Meyerbeer's overture, composed of three marches, was magnificent, full of grand, sweeping melody, in which there was a mingling of religious harmony current until the last triumphal burst. And, despite the depreciation of Mr. Costa, no Englishman need blush for Mr. Sterndale Bennett. His music went admirably with the ode. It was a little long and drawn out towards the end, perhaps, but the opening was good, and the touching pathos of the passage. "Oh, silent father of our kings to be," was exquisite. Auber's march was sprightly enough, essentially French, and of the whipped-cream order, out of place in such a ceremonial, but taking and effective. And then the cheering of the crowd told that the ceremonial was over, and that we were free to roam about once more; and all the people who had had seats looked very hot, and crushed, and spotty, and didn't seem to be any the wiser for what they had seen, save that I heard it in many places remarked that Lord Palmerston looked very worn and full his age; that Lord Derby, limping with his stick, was evidently undergoing exhaustion and physical suffering; and that the Lord Chancellor looked the most undignified man in the not very dignified procession.

To those with whom the prosperity of Italy has become a household theme it will surely be no slight consolation to be held that the country whose display, after our own, was most approaching to readiness on the day of the opening, was the newly-constituted kingdom of the South. The commissioners are more indebted to the exhibitors in the Italian department than they, perhaps, are aware. Even on the 1st of May, when tumbled cases, piled-up benches, clocks without faces, pedestals without busts, noise, confusion, and bustle made the greater part of the building anything but a palace of art and a palace of industry even in its embryonic forms, serenely or savagely, as the subject might require, sat, crouched, or stood erect the beautiful marble shapes sent from across the Alps. And now that, a week after the inauguration, there still resound on all sides the thud of hammers and clash of impatient voices, while there still stare at you spaces untenanted, and you still tumble over the scattered fragments of a joiner's shop, order, grace, and majesty reign in the south central square over which is hung the pleasant name of Italy. True it is that there is a very ugly obstruction which, both from its position and (at first blush) from its contents, would seem to claim protection from that presiding word, that is at the time I write as yet incomplete. This is Owen Jones's temple, built either to display its own ugliness or to harmonise with the corresponding vulgarity of Gibson's tinted Venus. No amount of self-constituted authority shall over-ride my unbiased judgment. Plainly, then, I consider that this tinted Venus is a bad statue, made worse by a tricky conceit. At first I was inclined to be indignant that it should have been placed in such impertinent proximity to the statues of the Italian Court; but annoyance soon yielded to satisfaction. It is placed exactly where it should be in order to be ensured—condemnation. Had it stood secluded, some might have doubted Standing where it does, it provokes comparison with its calmer neighbours, and the question is settled. This is no place in which to prove, from the principles of abstract art, how it is utterly wrong; so let us turn from it to pleasanter sights but a few feet beyond. Let us look at that Musidora of Lord Belper—lucky Lord Belper—from Florence. Musidoras we have many, but this is the best. Perhaps it is the most perfect gentle head I have ever seen. It is not in the catalogue; so they who do not find out beautiful objects for themselves will miss it. But who will miss Magni's marble statue of Angelica? I thought at first that the brood was overdone, but looking down the limbs and up them again to the terrified face, I found in the whole convulsed action of the body justification for the extreme contortion of the facial muscles. He is a great artist who can give us such a form as this, and also one not far off, but how different—"Socrates in the Theatre of Athens." No anticipation, no thought of death—though death is sure to be the award—is there in that keen, combative physiognomy, that firmly set-down foot. He is enjoying the mental weaknesses of his judges, who are strong enough, withal, to condemn him: he is arguing with them with all the zest which would be manifested were they but his friends or pupils, not arbiters of life. Yes, that is the man in marble, as he was in the flesh; you feel it, you know it. Had the chemistry of Time ennobled the material with deeper eyes you would at once believe that it was 2000 years old, and accept it as a contemporary statue of the ugliest and greatest of the Athenians. Only in plaster, but superb withal, the genius loci, the greatest because the most believing, and one of the handsomest of modern heroes, Garibaldi, guards the entrance to the court. Dramatic treatment was requisite, and Signor Romanelli has treated his subject dramatically. With one hand the great liberator holds aloft the flag, with the other presses on the hilt of his sword. His lips seem to have just uttered the exhortation of war whither his limbs seem to follow. Like Muzi, Romanelli seems determined to prove that any subject is within his comprehension, so he gives us "Franklin when a Child," which for simple yet suggestive truthfulness has few competitors. But, have we not said enough to lead any who may read these pages to make themselves masters at their first visit of these and other scarcely less meritorious works of art crowded within a few yards of each other?

In a separate department are the contributions from Rome. As we glance down the catalogue we note the presence of names anything but Roman; and when we turn from the catalogue to the objects exhibited under these, we are first a little startled to find that some of the best may, the very best—sculptures in this beautiful Roman court are by foreigners. But, after all, Rome has a right to them. She has made them artists. Under her sky were their works evolved; fitly, then, under her name are they enrolled. Claiming first attention from the eye as you enter, catching it last as you leave, recalling it often as you proceed, is "Cleopatra Seated." This is the work so eloquently spoken of in Hawthorne's Preface to "Transformation." There is but one word, and that a long one, which expresses its merit, and that is "magnificent." There is no finer—I almost think there is no such fine—piece of modern sculpture. There is no "timid tear" in her eye for the "soft triumph."

Lost, lost, the beautiful shape!
That beautiful shape!

As she sits in her severe chair, her head resting upon her hand, her mouth firmly compressed, her eyes fixed half outwards, half upon the ground, you see at a glance that it is "all over." The Past is past, the Future empty, the present intolerable. There is no asp, except in the resolute stare. The "lamps that outshone Canopus" are extinguished for ever. No longer is she "Egypt's graceful Queen, profuse of joy." She sees that her empire hath departed; she is unutterably crushed; and—she will die. All this, and more, is told in her attitude and face, and attracts our notice first. But, when recovering from the awe of its majesty, we examine with the gaze of the critic more than that of the artist, we are baffled in the endeavour to find a fault. Despite its ideal character, it is essentially real. The sculptor has not abated one hair's breadth from the massive head, from the thick, powerful lips, from the majestic arm, and leaves the looker-on to feel that he who was loved by that woman was loved by a savage, however regally diademed or softly spoken. But we dwell too long—too long to be able to do more than to say that Mr. Story's "Sibyllia Libica," though full of power, falls far short of its companion, probably on account of the inequality of the two subjects; that Mr. Adams's "Boy playing at Nux" is exquisitely pleasant and true to life, that the head of Mr. Ives's "Pandora" is so perfect that we are sorry we cannot say the same of the lower limbs; that Signor Lombardi's "Innocence" is most touching and plaintive; and that "La Sposa e l'Indovina" of Signor Guglielmi is at once original in its conception and literal in its execution. So much of the Roman Court is yet "forbidden ground" that I shall have to return to it, and can only trust that I have said enough of what is already visible to whet curiosity and stimulate attention.

THE KING OF ITALY AT NAPLES.

LETTERS from Naples describe the reception of the King of Italy as one of the most remarkable demonstrations that has ever taken place in Europe. One correspondent writes, on the 24th ult. :—

I am at a loss for terms to describe the enthralling reception which was accorded to Victor Emmanuel, the King of Italy. It infinitely surpassed, both in fervour and universality, his first reception, and far exceeded my expectations, though they were by no means low. For a week or more a fever has been rising; yesterday from the dawn of the day the excitement was intense, and when the first cannon boom which announced the approach of his Majesty there was a burst of feeling which it was impossible to mistake. At three o'clock our ships dressed, and every mast in the bay was covered in a moment with tricoloured flags; then our blue-jackets—conventionally so called, though they now are all as white as snow—were seen running up the rigging and clustering about the masts like gulls. "Il Re Galantuomo viene!" was the universal shout, and the masses were heaving backwards and forwards with impatient expectation; but yet another hour of anxious endurance ensued. At last a shot from the Castello d'Oro announced that the Royal vessel was turning the point of classic and lovely Pausanippus. The buzz of voices and the clapping of hands, even in the distant parts of the city, were universal and increasing. The thin mists which had covered the sun for two or three days, protecting the vast crowds from its burning rays, now cleared up, and sea and mountain dressed themselves in their most gorgeous colours for their King; our ships fired salutes, which were repeated by the ships in harbour and the forts; and amid the rejoicings of nature, for the sun burst out at this moment, and the universal rejoicing of hundreds of thousands of expectant free men, the King rounded the Castello, and came in view of the city. It was as beautiful a sight as I ever witnessed. As soon as the Maria Adelaide anchored, the State barge received the King, and attempted to make its way to the land—attempted I say advisedly, for such a multitude of boats crowded around it, filled with enthusiastic persons desirous of welcoming their Sovereign, that it was difficult to land. It was calculated that 500 of these boats hovered round the Royal barge. On his Majesty disembarking, and entering the pavilion which had been erected expressly for the occasion, and fitted up with exquisite taste, he was received with a hurricane of applause. I can give you no idea of the ardour, the waving of handkerchiefs, clapping of hands, and shouts of "Viva Vittorio Emanuele!" "Il Re Galantuomo!" "Il Re d'Italia Unita!" Bouquets were showered thicker than May showers could do their cluster. The King was evidently moved by the enthusiasm of the people, and that is saying much for a man of iron nerves. The demonstration must have been a mighty one in which could so far have affected him. In the pavilion there were in attendance the civil and military authorities and Ministers of State, and members of the diplomatic body and other persons of distinction who had received invitations. As soon as the official greetings were completed, the King entered the Royal carriage, which was in attendance, and, preceded by a picket of carabinieri, commenced the truly Royal procession. Before all, however, went a host of *giammas*, who in all countries, it would appear, are the exponents of public joy; the various associations of students, *operti*, "Italia Una," and several others followed, bearing flags and boughs of trees. I saw several priests in the procession, and an old friar sinking under the weight of a banner.

And now one word as to my impressions of this wonderful pageant and demonstration. First, the Southern Italians are eminently monarchical in their ideas and tendencies. Republicanism will never find any root here. Such theories may be started, and associations in their favour may be found, but nothing but monarchy will go down here. And who is that Monarch to be? Not a foreign Prince: the very stones would rise up in protest against him; and much less a Bourbon. Some may have been discontented, impatient, exasperated, but they will not have a Bourbon. Who, then, is to be their Sovereign but Victor Emmanuel? And yesterday they declared in the face of Europe that they will have him, and none but him.

The King has since paid a visit to the French Admiral on board the Bretagne, meeting with an imposing reception. Salutes were fired by the whole fleet. On Monday the French fleet gave a nautical spectacle. The Ministers of Belgium and Sweden have arrived at Naples. On Saturday the King went to Caserta, and was greeted with remarkable enthusiasm. He gave 10,000*l.* for purposes of charity. The Ministers and the élite of Neapolitan society were present at a soirée given by the French Consul at Naples on Saturday night. The Viceroy of Egypt has been received by the King. The Royal villa of La Favorita has been placed at his disposal. The Neapolitan merchants have distributed 1,000 kilogrammes of bread amongst the poor on the occasion of the Royal visit.

A communication from Naples of the 1st says :—

Day after day passes, and the popular enthusiasm increases instead of diminishing. Yesterday the trades corporations, preceded by their banners, carried Victor Emmanuel's bust in triumphal procession through the city. In the evening the illumination was spontaneously repeated without any suggestion from the authorities. High-roads and by-roads, the palaces of the rich and the humble abodes of the working classes, all took part in the fête; and, without the least pressure either from the authorities or the people, there was not the slightest breach of the peace. Certainly, there can be no better proof of the absence of those political passions which usually exist only in the columns of certain journals, and perhaps in the heads of a few *camorristi*. At the theatre the King was received with all imaginable enthusiasm. The house was crowded, the boxes resplendent with elegant toilets. The Royal March, which the band struck up when the King entered, called forth thunder of applause. The splendid theatre of San Carlo was brilliantly illuminated by a quintuple row of wax tapers. The whole fête, indeed, was admirably conducted by the Duke de San-Donato, who has the superior direction of the theatres, and justly holds a high place in public favour. The popularity of Victor Emmanuel is easily explained. Besides his personal qualities, the Italians regard him as the impersonation of their nationality; and this idea gains additional strength as it approaches its definitive realisation. This is equally true at Naples as elsewhere. Such is the secret of the enthusiasm of the masses, who have the instinct of great things.

To a deputation of Senators and Deputies, who presented a loyal address to him, he expressed his affection and gratitude at the splendid reception he had met with. Alluding to the disturbed state of the country, he said it was owing to the conspiracies hatched at Rome that public safety was not yet re-established; adding that, much as the Italians wish to recover Rome, the French wish quite as much to terminate their occupation of it. The Paris papers state that Prince Napoleon will go to Naples in the course of this week.

The King has addressed the following letter to the Emperor of the French :

Naples, May 3, 12.30 p.m.

ITALY TO THE MASTER OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

I have just visited the fleet which you have so good as to send to this port. This act of cordial kindness on your part for my person, and of sympathy for the cause of Italy, has much moved me, and I thank you for it. It is a long time, sire, since I have undergone so many emotions as on this day. The order which recalls in these southern provinces and the warm marks of affection which I receive from all sides reply victoriously to the clamours of egotism, and will, I hope, convince Europe that the idea of the unity of Italy rests upon a solid basis and is deeply engrained in the heart of all Italians.

Accept, sire, the expression of my sincere and unalterable friendship.



PARIS SPRING FASHIONS.

PARIS SPRING FASHIONS.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1. *Plain Morning Costume*.—Dress of mauve-coloured mohair, trimmed with black velvet and passementerie. Round cap, trimmed with flowers and ribbon.

Fig. 2. *Outdoor Dress*.—Pardeus of black velvet, edged with passementerie; the seams at each side finished with narrow folds and ornamented with large flat buttons. A small cape, pointed at the back, is edged with passementerie and fringe, and finished with a large tassel at the point. Dress of violet-coloured silk. Bonnet of white crin, trimmed.

Fig. 3. *Evening Dress*.—Robe of white tulle over white silk. Berthe of point d'Alençon, with folds of tulle. Necklace of opals and pearls. Headdress, a coronet wreath à l'Impératrice composed of roses and jasmine.

Fig. 4. *Young Lady's Negligé*.—Robe of shaded azuline-blue silk, Figaro jacket of dark blue velvet. Under sleeves and collar of plain muslin, and necktie of blue ribbon.

Fig. 5. *Young Lady's Dinner Dress*.—Robe of Islay-green Chambray gauze, with fluted pelerine of the same, edged with lace. Chemisette of tulle, with quilling of lace round the throat. The hair turned back from the forehead and ornamented with a small wreath of green foliage. Long ringlets at each side.

Fig. 6. *Lady's Dinner Dress*.—Robe of very rich silver-grey moire antique. The skirt very long and full, and without any trimming. The corsage half-high, and edged at the top by a bouillonne of blue silk. Ceinture echarpe of blue silk edged with quilling, and fastened in a bow and long ends at the back of the waist. Chemisette of tulle, with narrow bouillonne of the same. Headdress, foliage and clusters of gold berries.

Fig. 7. *Little Girl's Dress*.—Frock of chequered mohair, trimmed with quillings of ribbon. The hair turned back from the forehead and plaited at the back part of the head, where the plaits are fixed by bows and ends of black velvet ribbon.

The sudden setting in of warm weather has brought forth a vast variety of mantles and shawls of those light textures which are usually reserved for a later period of the season. Mantlelets of black guipure and shawls of grenadine and barge are likely to be very generally adopted.

A new kind of barge has recently made its appearance. It is extremely light and clear in texture, and is manufactured in extremely wide widths. It is to be had in every colour, and in Paris this barge is employed for shawls to be worn with dresses of the same colour and material; thus forming a light and simple costume, very suitable for ordinary walking-dress.

The distinctive characteristics of the dresses of the present season are of enormous amplitude and length in the skirts, the back breadth being made to trail at least a quarter of a yard on the ground. Everything looks best when in its proper place, and nothing certainly is more elegant than a train dress in a drawing-room. A long flowing robe will impart a certain grace and dignity even to the wearer in whom those qualities are wanting. This fact was fully understood by our grandmothers, and they turned it to the best account. But the most enthusiastic admirer of long dresses will readily admit that nothing is more unpleasant and more out of place than a train in the street. All the grace and elegance of flowing dresses vanish when they are seen sweeping the dust and dragging through the mud. The proverb says, "Fools set the fashion, and wise people follow it;" but, in respect to trains worn in outdoor walking dress, the folly or wisdom of the wearers are questions which admit of little doubt. Certain it is that few ladies are sufficiently philosophical to view with indifference the injury which a beautiful dress must sustain when exposed to the outrage of every clumsy foot that passes. The only remedy for all the difficulties involved in the important question of long dresses is, that, for walking costume, skirts should be made so as just to clear the ground, and that trains should be reserved exclusively for the drawing-room. There at least a beautiful trimming may escape destruction, and a rich and delicate silk may retain unsullied freshness. In the drawing-room the train is in its right place, and every one will admit that a lady cannot be well dressed without it.

Bonnets are undergoing a little improvement. They are less pointed in front, and it is no longer indispensable to place the under trimming perfectly in the centre of the forehead.

Parasols are of moderate size, and lined with white silk. Those intended for the open carriage are necessarily rather small, and are frequently covered with black or white lace. White and all colours are equally fashionable.

The Empress Eugénie has founded a grand charitable society, on a large scale, for the purpose of lending small sums to the poor without interest.

"THE THORNY PATH."

It is difficult in looking at this pretty picture of the rustic child, one of Mr. Tidey's contributions to the New Water-colour Society, to avoid associating it with some allegorical meaning: not that it is untrue to nature—on the contrary, it has a direct tendency to cause an involuntary shrinking of the leg when we see the danger to which those poor little bare feet are exposed—a desire to warn the infant wanderer to seek another way home rather than push on through the lacerating brambles which catch her scanty dress and hold her in a very trap of torture. The wild flowers which may have tempted her can never be reached through the prickly branches of the hedge; the ruddy berries flung from many a drooping spray of green are many of them deadly; the way becomes more dangerous, if not more difficult, as she proceeds, and every onward step makes the turning back appear more hopeless. She must press on even though it be to leave a red track on the bright green leaves, and to reach home with a hundred smart of pain. Let us hope that there is some kind, tender hand waiting to bathe and bind her wounds, and that the thorny path may lead to a quiet haven where her weary feet may rest!



A THORNY PATH.—(FROM A PICTURE, BY H. T. TIDEY, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE NEW WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.)

THE NEGRO QUESTION IN AMERICA.

THE New York correspondent of the *Times*, apropos of the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, says that those who wish to know what the President's convictions and intentions are in respect to a question which underlies every other in America, would do well to study the speech delivered in the House of Representatives on the 11th instant by the Hon. F. P. Blair, of Missouri. Mr. Blair is a brother of Mr. Montgomery Blair, the Postmaster-General. Both brothers are high in the confidence of the President, and Mr. Montgomery Blair is a member of the Cabinet. Both of them entertain the same views on the subject of slavery and the negro race, and Mr. F. P. Blair, in this speech, distinctly states that he speaks the sentiments and enunciates the policy of Mr. Lincoln. The correspondent proceeds to set them forth:—"Mr. Blair denies that the rebellion of the South is a slaveholders' rebellion; asserts that the slaveholders are generally Unionists, and that the war rose out of the abhorrence felt by the non-slaveholding, labouring, and trading white men of the South against negro equality and an amalgamation of the white and black and white race, which they believed would result from the emancipation which Northern politicians were so eager to enforce. He maintains that the abolition of slavery throughout the South, even if it could be effected by the consent of the whole body of slaveholders, and with adequate compensation to them, would not be

accepted by the larger and more influential body of non-slaveholders, or operate in any degree to win back their allegiance to a Union which they hate for social and ethnological more than for political reasons. He anticipates a day, not far distant, when the flag of the Union shall float over no slave; when the United States shall be absolutely the land of the free; but maintains that this result can only be reached by the deportation, voluntary or compulsory, of the negro race to some Southern region, where they may establish a Black Republic under the protection of the Union. He insists that as fast as they are manumitted they ought to be expatriated; otherwise, he contends, no peace will be possible between the North and South. Many assume, he says, that Mr. Lincoln's programme of conciliation by separation of the races is inadequate, because the negroes are so numerous that they cannot all be removed, and that time will be required to remove even a small portion of them. In answer to those who argue that, because the colony of Liberia has failed to attract the free negroes any other similar scheme of colonisation must fail for like reasons, he urges that there is an essential difference between the colonisation of the

freed negroes in Africa, with which they have no ties or sympathies, and in America, where they were born, and between their exile without protection to that remote land and their simple transfer to a locality to the south of Texas, where they might establish their community under the protection of the Federal Government. He adds, as a fact within his own cognisance, though it had not previously been made public, that many hundreds of born-free and freed negroes are constantly emigrating from the United States to Hayti; that a Convention of the black race was held in Cleveland, in Ohio, in 1857, to debate the subject of a general exodus; that he has received copies of the reports of their proceedings and of the commission appointed to examine and report, together with letters from their leading men, which evince not only the deepest interest in the subject but a comprehensive knowledge of it which shows they have those among them fitted to be the founders of a new nationality. In short, if the world is to believe Mr. Blair, the negroes in America are in the position of the Jews in Egypt, and are only awaiting the Moses and Aaron of their race who are to lead them out of the land of which Mr. Lincoln is the temporary Pharaoh, to a richer land in the far South, where they may try the experiment of self-government under happier auspices than those of either Hayti or Liberia. So sanguine is Mr. Blair upon the subject that he does not doubt that 50,000 free negroes, each with some means, would emigrate in the first year to the tropical regions of Mexico if the Government of the United States would aid the project and select the territory. He is also of opinion that the establishment of such a colony would be followed by an outpouring of the negro population like the outpouring of the Mississippi when a crevasse is opened. He states, in conclusion, that Mr. Lincoln only desires to obey this natural and irresistible law—this gravitation of the negro to the tropics—and to facilitate its operation. It is only the disregard of it, he alleges, which has produced the present dangers of the Union; and he warns the people of the North, if they neglect the question much longer, that there will be such an influx of freed negroes among them, reducing the wages of labour and competing with the white population for the meaner kinds of employment, that the latter will either be squeezed down into pauperism like the population in the old and densely-peopled countries of Europe, or be compelled, like some of the

western States, to establish a *cordon sanitaire* against negro immigration."

FINE ARTS.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—FIRST NOTICE.

THE Royal Academy of Arts entered upon its ninety-fourth year on Monday, and with all the signs of a green old age. Mr. Mulready, the Nestor of the English school, takes "a pace to the front" with all the vigour and the grace of a youth of twenty; Mr. Webster touches his humorous episodes of boy life with a freshness and rare sympathy—young-mindedness, as the old Greeks called it—more like one starting for fame than one who has passed the goal and might have fairly left the race to others. Mr. Stanfield shows how he loves to paint in *petto*, with minute and affectionate handling, those magnificent scenes of ocean nature that have won for him a world-wide fame. Mr. Witherington continues to put forth his green shoots in wooded scenes that we remember well for their leafy prettiness and sunny glades any time these thirty years. Mr. Hart, the professor of painting, really seems to be handling his brush with more gusto and power than ever; and Mr. J. P. Knight, the secretary, exhibits his fine, manly portraits still touched with Tintoretto-like boldness and

energetic character. And, as to Mr. David Roberts, another veteran, he has launched out upon the River Thames as gaily as a painting Tom Tug, with a new series of views, bright, cheerful, and full of life as the sketches of a *fantasia per la pittura*. Alas! that the pleasant picture is dashed with the thought that more than one able hand has forgot its cunning—some under the stroke of age, some under the bane of ill-health, but none forgotten amidst the success of their more youthful fellows.

It is, indeed, one of the most gratifying views of the institution to know that the annual exhibition does not merely represent so much rising and ripened talent seeking fairly for its reward, but that while the public are offering their just tribute to art, at the same time there is flowing beneath the surface a rich source of good deeds—educating the young in the rudiments of art, helping the needy, and contributing to the general culture of the nation. So far the Royal Academy is a national institute, though it glories in calling itself a private society; and that it has the highest claims of interest, notwithstanding certain minor inconsistencies and shortcomings, few only will be disposed to deny. It is, and long will be, the centre of English art, not, perhaps, the great school its name would imply, but the arena where all artists come to contend for the palm. The improvements (reforms, shall we say?) which have been effected of late are an indication that the old Tory-like spirit is fading out, and at the same time we see the new buds and branches springing out from the grafts upon the old stock. The engravers have been acknowledged; the architects have got strong enough to secede in a great measure, and rely on a Royal society of their own; female students have been admitted to the school, and, though we say it who should not, the "fourth estate" has been thoroughly and frankly recognised by the academy, while a general spirit of liberality has been evinced in the reception of the works of painters who are not adherents or probationers of the body. The hanging of the pictures is, for example, this year more fair, and as ably done as we ever remember. There are no atrocities on the line, even by Academic hands, and the north room is now as handsomely filled with good pictures as any room in the gallery. Places on the line have been given to the works of unknown painters, and thus alone a seal of merit has been conferred where formerly it would have been deserved in vain. We should instance, for example, a picture by Mr. V. Prinsep, and one by Mr. J. P. Bedford. Thus we can honestly congratulate our Royal Academy on having at the same time some fine old artistic stamina in its constitution, with plenty of young blood to keep the body moving with the times. Like the old family coach, the wheels are a little stiff, and the wheels don't like the whip, but the young blood leaders are game for any pace or distance. Several leading painters of the academy, however, have not appeared in their accustomed places. Mr. Maclise and Mr. E. M. Ward are so completely absorbed by their works in fresco, or rather the new water-glass painting in the Houses of Parliament that their easels have produced nothing, at least if we except Mr. Ward's small drawing of "Marie Antoinette taking leave of the Dauphin in the Prison of the Temple." Then the President (Sir C. Eastlake) is equally absorbed by his administrative official duties in several quarters; and Sir Edwin Landseer, the Orpheus of the art, gives no sign of his presence but in one of the tiniest of little black-and-tan game terriers, that seems to have stolen slyly into a full-length portrait picture as a wagish contrast against the herculean "J. O." of the *Times*, painted by Mr. F. Grant, R.A. One could fancy that, like Quintin Matsys, who painted the fly on his master's picture, or Apelles leaving his line upon the panel of Protegenes, our great painter of animal portraiture called upon his friend, equally distinguished amongst the Iconographers of mankind, and finding himself without a card, seized the wet brush and painted the fierce little guardian of the studio there and then. "Landseer has been here!" would be the first exclamation of Mr. Grant on his return; and so it is of every one who finds himself before this picture No. 632, in the North Room, "A Portrait of M. J. Higgins, Esq." Mr. Charles Landseer does not exhibit; Mr. Frith appears with his great work in a special exhibition elsewhere; Mr. Dyce is absent; and Mr. Egg, all will regret to hear, is compelled to rest and recruit on the shores of Algeria. No doubt these distinguished painters have preferred to be estimated by those works selected by themselves for the gallery of the International Exhibition—pictures which probably they cannot hope to surpass, and with which they do well in not risking a comparison. Mr. Holman Hunt, too, is another painter of eminence who has not sent any example of his talent to the Academy Exhibition. However, it is gratifying to see that the younger members have put forth their strength, as well as those of the old blood whom we have mentioned; and in the pictures of Mr. Elmore, Mr. Horsley, Mr. Goodall, and Mr. O'Neill, we can point without the least reserve to works of the very highest excellence they have ever reached. Then, in addition, it remains to be said in general description that there are a number of paintings of great interest which contribute largely to sustain the character of the academy as an exhibition, and display to advantage the position of art in England; though it must candidly be owned there is no work of surpassing power, such as we have seen in the palmy days of Landseer, Maclise, and Stanfield. One other point strikes us in the general view, and that is in the admirable pictures exhibited by lady artists—Mrs. E. M. Ward, Mrs. Benham Hay, Miss Solomon, and Miss Osborne—pictures which just now have a peculiar interest and will occupy us in detail hereafter.

Mr. Mulready, R.A., claims our attention first in every way. His large work, "The Toy-seller" (73), though not altogether new, being evidently founded upon the exquisite studies of his best time, and almost an enlarged replica of a well-known picture by him, stands out bravely as a most remarkable production, whether as the work of a gifted artist retaining his powers with a wonderful tenacity and resource, or as a work of high finish and masterly treatment that may be held up as an exemplar beside the most recent productions of the time. A stalwart negro is offering a drum to a sweet little flaxen-haired girl held by her fair mother, and shrinking, frightened at the black man, who, not dreaming that he has any personally objectionable points, grins and leers in the most amiable manner at the little dear, making himself a more hideous object all the while. The mother tries to calm the child; and in front of this group a sunflower gracefully rears its head and seems to smile kindly upon the son of Africa. The background of the picture is filled with the artist's favourite beech trunks and foliage, with a glimpse of blue distance. Remembering well those studies from the life in red chalk (which might be placed in the same glass case with the precious works of Raphael and Michael Angelo) at the Society of Arts, one master exhibition, and once again amongst the Manchester art-treasures, we can see in this large oil painting how the artist brings his knowledge to bear upon the canvas. The form of the negro is as grandly modelled and as lifelike as a Velasquez sketch from the life in oil; and the child, with its little delicate flesh all quivering with instinctive dread, is astonishingly vigorous and full of motive; while, in point of painting and colour, everything in the figures is *soigné*, as in one of the artist's minutest cabinet works. A slight touch of mannerism rather obtrudes itself in the too regular and absolute way in which the high lights are put on the flesh; but, overlooking this, the picture is altogether one that we may justly be proud of in this *annus mirabilis* of international rivalry in art.

Mr. Elmore's (R.A.) picture "The Invention of Wool-combing" most worthily fills the chief place in the great room where we have from time to time seen some of the chefs-d'œuvre of the academy, notably the very spot where Mulready's "Choosing the Wedding-gown" was hung. The workman-inventor, a clever-looking man, is seen sitting musing before the low fire in the humble home, but, turning his head, he catches sight of his daughter, a beautiful fair girl, combing out her long hair before the glass of the family, and at this moment the idea of the machine occurs to him. Seated near the standing figure is a dark-haired sister, and the two form a most picturesque group. The face of the one is only seen as reflected most cleverly in the glass: it is fair and pure as a roseleaf; simple, joyous, and candid as a child's. The dark girl is thoughtful and sad rather. The lighting of the picture is managed almost entirely from the window at which the girl is dressing; though in a sombre recess in

the room is seen a lamp just lit by the mother, and the firelight strikes upon the figure of the father. We could fancy the painter had in his mind to suggest by this effect the dawn of success upon the household that followed the invention, and the diffusion of the light of mechanical art. The picture is certainly one of the most interesting in the exhibition, for the subject—which is, we believe, taken from the facts, as the family is still well known for one of the most wealthy under the name of Heilman, in Alsace—and for its extremely artistic and original treatment.

Mr. Ausdell, A.R.A., has painted a kind of companion picture to his "Hunted Slaves" of last year. It is of the same gallery size, and the figures are of heroic proportions. The painter has attempted Longfellow's poem "Excelsior" on canvas, and, to our notion, he has succeeded in giving much of the heroic character of the poet's thought by his extremely noble style of treating animal life in the two St. Bernard mastiffs, and in the rugged grandeur of the snow-clad mountain. The two monks in their heavy woollen cloaks are also most striking and expressive figures. The knight is perhaps hardly made so much of as he lies half-buried in the snow, his plumed hat fallen off, but the banner still clutched firmly with his dying hand. This fine picture gives great effect to the end of the principal room. On the right and left of Mr. Elmore's picture are two pictures of domestic genre—Mr. Webster's (R.A.) "Roast Pig" (142) and Mr. Horsley's (A.R.A.) "Checkmate next Move." Mr. Webster's work can scarcely be said to be marked by all those rare points of fineness and humour that made his "Slide," his "Scesaw," and his other boy-life scenes so admirable; still it is full of character and very neatly painted. Surely "roast pig" is an event of savoury suspense and expectation that most of us have gone through. Have we not all, as boys, made pigs of ourselves over it? and as men debated with immense interest whether it should be roasted or baked, whether the baker might not dry it up, whether it will agree with us, and whether the stuffing and gravy will prove exactly the thing? What a little world of sensations is here, and so Mr. Webster shows us in his family party on the look out, we may say, on the scent for the pig; which at last the youngest of the party is the first to spy coming along the street hot and reeking on the baker's head. This little chap is capably painted; he has mounted his chair, and his greedy little face is brought to a complete apex of juicy relish *in esse*. The family, being well-to-do, is complete; they are of all ages, and all fond of pig, except perhaps the lady mother, who clearly is of a little dubious on the point.

Mr. Horsley's picture, "Checkmate next Move," is an interior old English room, with comfortable fireplace and glorious old brass-headed fire dogs, before which are seated a couple of elders playing chess, a younger lady looking on. In a far window corner, under the shade of a green curtain, through which the hot afternoon sun is streaming, is seen another couple engaged in a more youthful and sentimental game, but here the watcher is a prying footboy concealed behind a screen. The subject is of no great interest, but as an interior it is very charming, accurate in drawing, and true in tone and colour. The figures are also well painted, and altogether we are inclined to regard it as one of the happiest of the artist's works.

Mr. Poole, R.A., has chosen a subject very different from his "Last Days of Pompeii" picture, and more resembling in choice and treatment his earlier works, such as "Solomon Eagle." It is called "The Ordeal by Water" (17). A wretched "suspect" of a woman is being bound with cords under the hands of a powerful fellow, assisted by a rude boy, while on the banks of a deep pool are collected a rough-looking crowd of men with long poles to push the poor creature under water with. Coming down the wild, sandy heathside is a litter bearing the fading girl supposed to be bewitched, but over the hill are seen two horsemen riding hard to the rescue. With all the technical ability in this picture, it is impossible to avoid feeling how thoroughly artificial it is throughout; every figure is in a studio pose, and scarce one connected with another in telling the excitement and savageness of such a scene. There is also a great want of variety in the size of the figures about the pool; at least if we estimate this scrap of water as larger than a handbasin, the figure on the side nearest the spectator should be much larger. The colouring of the picture is what is called rich, but it might with equal truth be pronounced fiery; there is, indeed, but little of genuine study and original thought, either in the scheme of colour or the conception of the composition.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE sisters Marchisio, who obtained so much success at the Académie in the French version of "Semiramide," appeared in that opera last Thursday week, and again on Saturday, at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. These admirable singers had already been heard in London, but only at concerts; and to the great majority of the theatrical audience their tones must have been as new as they are fresh and beautiful. To say that they fully sustained their high Continental reputation would be very little, for these Continental reputations are not held of any great account in England in the present day. We have had enough of Italian singers and singers with Italian names coming to London, heralded by all the trumpets and trombones of advertisement renown, and showing at last that they have either not yet gained a style or that they have long since lost their voices. The value of a Continental musical reputation cannot be estimated like the price of gold at Hamburg, so that all sorts of elaborate calculations applicable to the London market may be based upon it. On the contrary, it does not follow because a vocalist has met with considerable success abroad, even of a thoroughly genuine kind, that he or she will obtain any success at all in London. Our Piccolominis are not much liked in Paris; and, on the other hand, we could mention half a dozen singers who delight the Parisians, but who would not please us at all. The sisters Marchisio, however, please and delight every one who hears them. We can believe in their triumphs at the French Opera now that we have heard them at Her Majesty's Theatre, where at each of their performances the audience has been roused to the greatest enthusiasm by the beauty, and, indeed, perfection of their singing. The sisters are heard to the greatest advantage in their duets, in which their voices, which are very much of the same quality, blend in the most harmonious manner. These Assyrian twins sing in precisely the same style, with the same intentions, and in the same spirit; so that in the passages which they execute together it would appear as though they sang with one voice; indeed, there is sympathy as well as harmony in their joint utterances, arising naturally from a similarity of talents and endowments and an absolute identity of musical habits and feelings. Carlotta Marchisio's voice may range a couple of tones higher than that of her sister Barbara, but they are both of the same stamp; and probably it would not be at all impossible for Barbara to sing Carlotta's music and Carlotta Barbara's. Malibran has been known to appear alternately as Semiramide and as Arsace, and was equally fortunate in both characters. We do not say that the Marchisio sisters could each, at a moment's notice, display the versatility or comprehensiveness of Malibran, but there appears to be no natural fundamental reasons why one should confine herself to soprano and the other to contralto music.

As to the histrionic capabilities of these charming vocalists, it is difficult to speak in a very decided manner, the fact being that one's attention is entirely absorbed by their singing. Where, too, is the scope for great acting in "Semiramide"? There are situations in the drama, but they are very few and far between, and the plot is so hopelessly uninteresting that no one thinks it worth while to notice them. It is thought necessary, as a rule, that Semiramis should have a dignified bearing, that she should "move a Queen," and so on; and it is not considered a disadvantage for her to be beautiful. Indeed, we have been so accustomed of late years to see the character played by Grisi, and, after Grisi, by Titiens, that a certain stateliness and magnificence have come to be thought indispensable in all its representatives. Perhaps if, like older and more travelled men, we had seen the pretty, graceful Sontag or the charming Bosio in the part, and never any one else, our impressions as to what the operatic Semiramis ought to look like would be entirely different, and we should consider a light and not a "robust" soprano best qualified to support the character. But, partly from Grisi and Titiens' asso-

ciations—unbroken by any visions of an Assyrian Sontag or of a Babylonian Bosio—and partly because it is always taken for granted that wicked, voluptuous women must be of imposing appearance (especially when they have classical names four syllables long, like Semiramis and Cleopatra)—owing to these causes, it will occur to many persons for whose ears Rossini's music is not all sufficient, that Carlotta Marchisio is not quite the counterfeited presentment of the imperial "Semiramis." Her stature and general bearing do not help her much to look the part. Still less does her costume, which, however correct from an antiquarian point of view, is grotesque in the extreme, and makes us regret the splendid historical inaccuracy of Mlle. Titiens. M. Méry, the author of the new and improved French version of the libretto of "Semiramide," has recorded the laborious exertions that were made at the French Opera to put the piece on the stage in the most Assyrian style of art. The sight of the dresses and decorations taken in connection with the most Italian of all Italian music that Rossini ever wrote, has, according to the ingenuous Frenchman, the effect of transporting the spectator and hearer at once to the East, and as he falls into a reverie between the acts, crocodiles and sphinxes appear to his orientalised imagination; he mistakes the tall violoncellos and double basses in the orchestra for palm-trees and the conductor for a camel. No such visions are likely to occur to the spectator at Her Majesty's theatre, where the scenery appears to have been borrowed from various climes, and is by no means in accordance with the eminently Assyrian garb worn both by Semiramis and by Arsace. Still more certain it is that no one who goes there while "Semiramide" is being played with the present cast will fancy that he is in a desert, for whenever the sisters Marchisio sing the theatre is sure to be crowded.

All that can be said in favour of Carlotta applies equally to Barbara. Indeed, the "contralto" has in some respects the advantage of her sister. She has rather more power, and, of a certainty, not less histrionic ability. We have as yet no reason for supposing that she is a great actress, but her manner of delivering the recitatives of Arsace, which are throughout so full of emotion, is most dramatic.

Signor Gassier, one of the best Rossinian singers living, played the part of Assur as well as it has been played, within our recollection, since the retirement of Tamburini. The new tenor, "Gualterio" (American for "Walter") Bolton, obtained considerable success. He has a pleasing voice, and an excellent style.

The only novelty to record at the Royal Italian Opera is the appearance of Delle-Sedie (the admirable baritone who was introduced to the public last year at the Lyceum by Mr. Mapleson) in the "Ballo in Maschera." Mario sang the same evening for the first time this season, and will appear again on Saturday in the "Barber." Mlle. Patti made her first appearance for the season on Monday in the "Sonnambula."

The weekly concerts at the Crystal Palace, under the direction of Mr. Manns, one of the very best conductors in London, have already commenced. The "Opera Concerts" are to begin this month, but the names of the singers engaged have not yet been published.

A letter addressed last week to the *Musical World*, in reference to the English Opera Association, states that the society in question is increasing daily "in wealth and strength," and that the prospects will be shortly issued. The shares already taken are said to amount to some thousands of pounds, and we are told that the list of shareholders includes the names of a great many of the most eminent composers and artists in the United Kingdom, and that it may be seen daily at the offices of the association. It has been suggested that this association might as well take Drury Lane for the exhibition season, but we hope it will do nothing of the kind. We have two good Italian companies now, and when the Royal Italian Opera closes in August, Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. Harrison will return to their old quarters at Covent Garden. People say that strangers will go away from London under the impression that we have no English opera. This will be a pity; but it is no use trying to improvise one merely for the instruction of our foreign visitors. When the association has quite completed its arrangements, the public will be glad to hear of it; and, in the meanwhile, the late visitors, who are sure to be far more numerous than the early ones, will have the opportunity for about a month of going to the Royal English opera.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

KENT.—The weather during the last fortnight has been very favourable for the growing crops, and great progress has been made in fieldwork. The appearance of the young wheats is generally good, though some few districts have suffered much from wet, and the plant on the leys on some light soil is bare through wireworm. The Lent corn is, upon the whole, looking favourable and grows very fast. A larger breadth of potatoes has been planted than ordinary, and, although they were not got in the ground as soon as usual, the planting has been effected under favourable circumstances. Cherries have suffered much from the late frosts, especially the bigarreau and reds, the crop of which in the neighbourhood of Maidstone will be small. The rest of the fruit at present promises well, yet it is full early to say much about the apple crop. Swedes and wurzels have held out well. Keep is plentiful, and the season is certainly a very forward one.

SUSSEX.—For the farmers the weather of late has been all that could be desired. Out-of-door operations have been carried on with the utmost vigour, and the crops are on every side giving evidence of the beneficial influence of the late change. The young wheats, which in many localities had begun to suffer from the continued wet, have greatly recovered, and are now looking healthy and vigorous. Vegetation is everywhere "going ahead" rapidly, and the general aspect of the country is verdant and smiling. The trees have everywhere burst into foliage, and the change effected has been so sudden that it seems difficult to believe so much could have been effected in so short a time. The reports as to the general condition of the crops in Sussex are extremely satisfactory; and, with some few exceptions, agricultural prospects may certainly be pronounced to be cheerful and promising.

THE FENS.—The crops are considered to be in a forward state in the Fens of Ely and the fen districts which have been brought into cultivation. The wheat, however, is not considered quite so good a crop as it was expected to prove, as it has suffered—first, from too much wet; then from frost; and, worst of all, from wireworm. The wheats sown upon old stubbles have been considerably thinned, but those put in after clover and seeds have not suffered so much. A bulky straw crop is not anticipated, but an average yield of grain may be realised. With regard to the best-drained fens, a rather more cheerful report is made, and probably with favourable weather everything will go well. Beans, peas, and oats present an encouraging appearance, and grass is luxuriant and abundant. Potatoes are planting well.

IRELAND.—The return of dry, warm weather has done much to invigorate the early sown cereals and restore the confidence of the rural population. From all quarters the most cheering accounts of the prospects of the entire crop in the county of Cork have reached us, and that for many years there has not been so good a likelihood of an abundant yield of every kind of cereals and green crops. A western paper reports in the same spirit:—"The early sown cereals look vigorous and healthy, and a large breadth of potatoes has been already planted. It has been remarked that country dealers are not generally announcing either guano or farm seeds for sale. Pasturage is greatly improved."

OBITUARY.

DR. WOLFF.—The Rev. Dr. Joseph Wolff, the well-known Eastern traveller, died a day or two since at the village, He Brewers, near Taunton, of which parish he was the incumbent. He was the son of a rabbi, and was born at Wellensbach, near Forchheim and Bamberg, in 1795. He was received as a pupil of the Collegio Romano, and of the Collegio Propaganda ex 1816 to 1818; but, his sentiments having been declared erroneous, he was expelled from Rome. He came to England, and placed himself under the care of the Rev. Charles Simeon and the late Mr. H. Drummond, M.P. Afterwards he went to preach in the East, and made two journeys to Bokhara, in order, if possible, to effect the liberation of Colonel Stoddart and Captain Connolly. He published several works giving accounts of his travels.

DR. J. O. M'WILLIAM, R.N., C.B.—Dr. M'William met with an accident last week which caused concussion of the brain, and, after lying insensible for several days, he expired on Sunday evening, at his residence, Trinity-square, Tower-hill. Fifteen years ago Dr. M'William was appointed medical officer to the customs department as an acknowledgment of his distinguished services in Africa, and of his high scientific attainments.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A shocking accident took place on Monday morning at the Harrow station of the London and North-Western Railway. The boiler of an engine dragging a goods train up to town had just come to a standstill at the station when the boiler exploded, blowing the engine-driver to pieces, as if he had been discharged from the muzzle of a cannon, and injuring the stoker to such a degree that but little hope is entertained of his recovery.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL GARDEN,
SOUTH KENSINGTON.—Admission during MAY—
Days, Tuesdays, Wednesdays (except 21st), and Thursdays, One
Shilling; Fridays, Half-a-crown; Saturdays, Five Shillings. Band
at 3.30.
Tuesday, 21st, First Great Show, 7s. 6d., or by Ticket to pre-
sented purchaser, Five Shillings. Next Election of Fellows,
May 12.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS,
ST. JAMES'S HALL.—The next Concert will be on
MONDAY EVENING, May 19. Pianoforte, Harp, Violin; violi-
ni, Harp, Violoncello, Signor. Pianoforte, Harp, Violoncello, Signor.
Violoncello and Mr. Santley, Conductor, Mr. Benedit, Soloist, 5s.;
Ballet, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Tickets and Programmes at Chappell
and Co's, 50, New Bond-street; and at Austin's, 28, Piccadilly.

WILJALBA FRIKELL at the ST. JAMES'S
HALL, Piccadilly. Every Evening at Eight (except Satur-
days); Saturday Afternoons at Three. Stalls, 3s.; Ar. 2s.; Gal-
lery, 1s.; at Chappell and Co's, 50, New Bond-street; and at the
Hall, 5s., Piccadilly.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S CABINET of
CURIOSITIES, newly polished and re-lined, will be
OPENED at the POLYGRAPHIC HALL, King William-street,
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